

# Angelo State University • Magazine

Summer 2013 • Volume 6 • Number 2

MEMBER, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

## the Great Outdoors



## Spider Mania • H<sub>2</sub>Ooooooh!



# Message

from the President

Colleagues:

In my position as executive director of the Mohair Council of America before I returned to ASU to teach, I learned that advertising and marketing have their places, but nothing beats word of mouth. A testimonial of someone who is directly involved with the product or idea is the most powerful recruiting or sales tool you can use.

That's why I want to invite each of you in the community to help us spread the word about Angelo State University, whether to the high school student who lives next door or your relatives who live out of town.

While our admissions team is implementing integrated strategies that will help us reach our enrollment goal of 10,000 by 2020, you can help us get there faster, whether you are an ASU employee or a resident of the Concho Valley. Instead of just five ASU recruiters, we can have 5,000 with greater support of the community.

Together, you can be our best recruiters because you know better than anyone the quality of life in San Angelo. Beyond that, Angelo State has a proud tradition of providing an excellent education with a large support system in student services and financial aid.

You, as a citizen of San Angelo and/or West Texas, have the power to influence college choices. When you attend family reunions, go to the rodeo and stock show, play in a golf tournament or worship at your church, please talk to your friends and relatives about Angelo State University as a college choice for their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. What better testimonial is there than from someone who lives in San Angelo or the surrounding communities?

With your help, we can continue to grow our undergraduate enrollment. We will continue to grow our graduate and transfer enrollment as well. A high enrollment will benefit both ASU and San Angelo – economically, intellectually and culturally. Most importantly, our new students will receive an excellent education at a regional institution with a national reputation.

If you know of any high school students who want to pursue a quality education, please send their contact information (name, address, phone, e-mail) to [admissions@angelo.edu](mailto:admissions@angelo.edu).

Sincerely,



Brian J. May  
President



Brian J. May



## Angelo State University Magazine

Summer 2013

Vol. 6, No. 2

### Angelo State University

Member, Texas Tech University System

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**Editor's Note:** This issue examines the Angelo State experience in the great outdoors, ranging from research to recreation to campus tours. After all, much goes on outside the classroom.

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Biologists call them arachnids, but the rest of us are more likely to scream at these creepy crawlers. Ever considered a black widow for a pet? One ASU student has!

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Every drop of water pumped from the Ogallala Aquifer draws the High Plains closer to some tough decisions about the future of the region.

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**On the Cover:** To drama students, all the world may be a stage, but to their biology counterparts, the world is one vast laboratory, requiring a variety of specialized equipment. Check out Page 29 for an explanation of the tools of the trade for these ASU biologists. (Photo by Danny Meyer)

**Back Cover:** Taryn Smith, Megan Bailey and Donald McCarthy enjoy a conversation in the newly landscaped triangle between the Houston Harte University Center, the Mayer Administration Building and the Hardeman Building on the west side of campus. (Photo by Kendra Guerrero)



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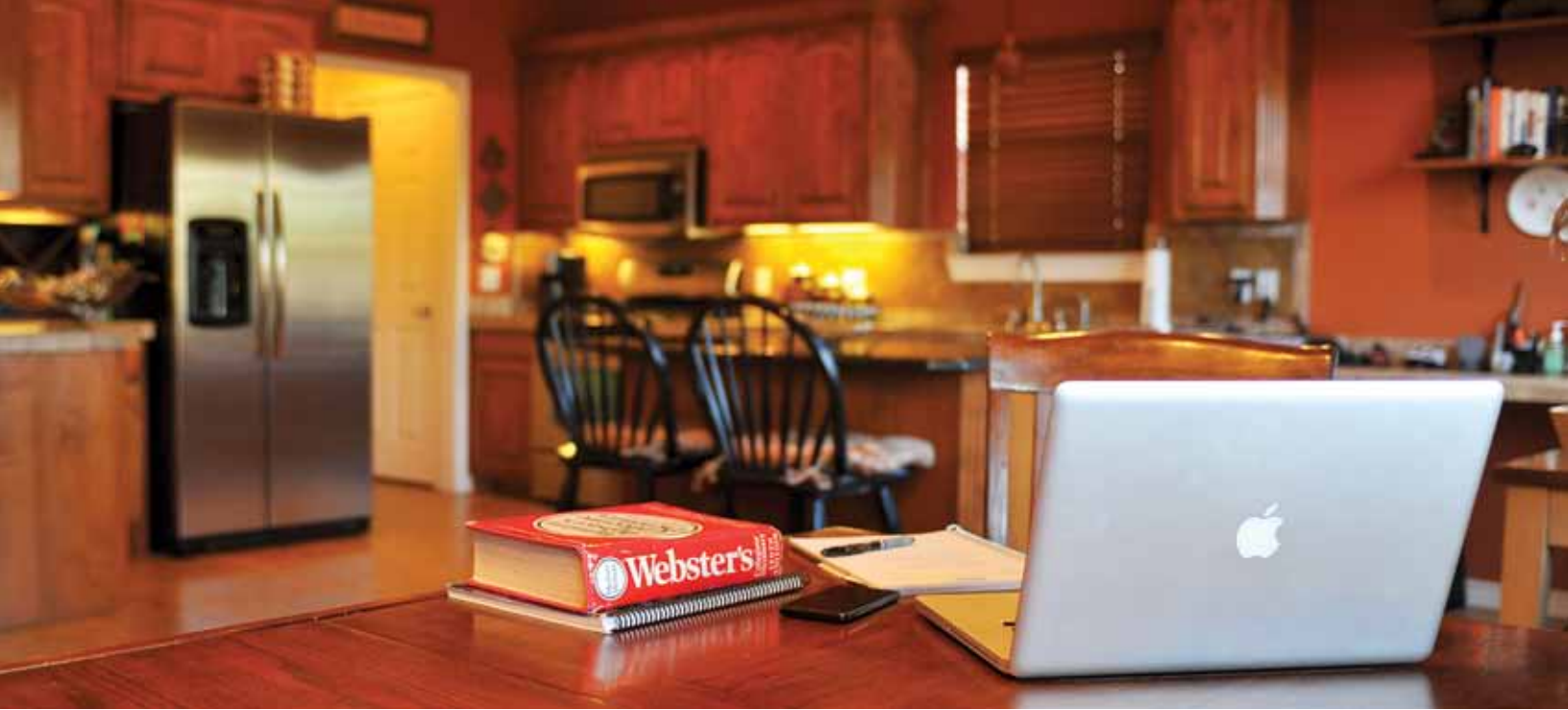


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# Home Away from Home

## (SCHOOL)

**Angelo State University** is catching the eye of more home-schooled students, thanks both to recent *Princeton Review* rankings of ASU as having some of the nation's most conservative students, and to longtime West Texas values, defined by integrity and a strong work ethic.

In the process, both ASU and the home-schoolers are benefitting. For its part, the university is adding top-notch students to the campus community.

"My data shows," said Mike Loehring, executive director of enrollment management, "that home-schooled students who enroll at ASU have higher scores on their ACT/SAT exams when compared to other entering students."

Further, home-schooled students, such as senior biology major Joshua Heimbecker, are making a mark at ASU. Heimbecker, for instance, has completed and published an undergraduate research project, traveled outside the country to attend an academic conference in his field and served as student body vice president during the 2012-13 academic year.

"I have found home-schooled students to be academically prepared and possess the

critical thinking skills and discipline necessary for academic success," said Dr. Javier Flores, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management. "Getting involved and engaged in co-curricular activities is the key for overall success. Recognizing that, ASU provides programs that give individual attention to students, as well as support and guidance from their first year to graduation day."

ASU also offers home-schooled students the opportunity for a college experience that is in tune with their core values. *The Princeton Review*, which for the last four years has named Angelo State to its annual list of best colleges nationally, has for the past two years included ASU on its list of universities with the most conservative students. ASU debuted on the 2012 list at No. 10 nationally and earned a No. 19 ranking for 2013.

"West Texans are fiscally conservative and so is ASU," Flores said. "ASU students have a low debt upon graduating because of the great scholarships ASU offers, and a commitment to keeping costs low. Also, while ASU does not have a dress code, students are expected to attend class in modest and appropriate attire. Additionally, ASU has many

religiously based student organizations, and several have centers and meeting places on or adjacent to the university campus."

Another aspect of ASU many home-schooled students appreciate is the small class sizes, which allow professors and instructors to give all students the more personal type of attention home-schoolers are used to receiving.

"I definitely took advantage of the small class sizes and the student-to-teacher ratio because, even my freshman year, I started developing more personal relationships with my professors," Heimbecker said. "Luckily, I had a couple who really sat me down and told me, 'This is what it's going to be like. These are the requirements we are going to have for you. This is what it takes to be successful.' I don't think I would have received that attention at other universities."

"The professors," added junior chemistry major Sergio Peña, "seem to really take an interest in the students' lives. I make it a point now to get to know my professors and, if I like them, to see what other courses they teach and then see if I would be interested in taking those as well."



Photo by Danny Meyer

Sergio Peña

At the same time, ASU also gives home-schooled students the opportunities for new learning experiences and to begin to find themselves as adults.

"Coming to college, it was nice to actually have someone teach us," said junior art major Kendra Guerrero. "When we were home-schooled, we had a schedule that was basically 'get all of this done by the end of the year.' But in college, you have week-to-week assignments, which was so nice to me. It made it a lot easier."

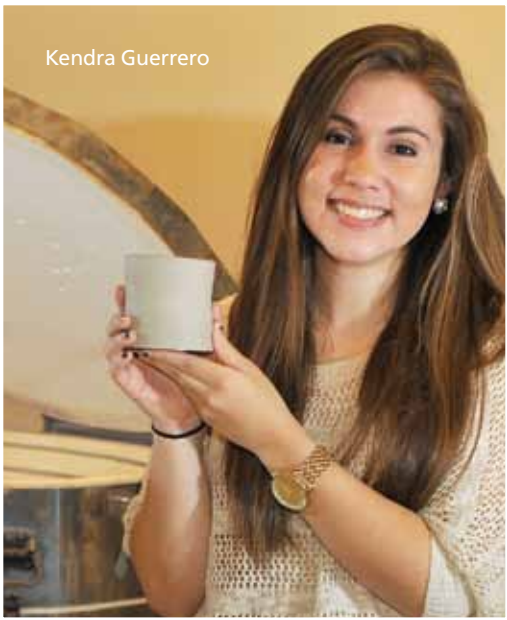
Sophomore Arielle Reynolds said, "I actually enjoyed coming to college because it was so different from what I was used to. I had to get used to taking notes. I also missed the 'one on one' because I was used to it, and I feel that time with the teacher for them to explain everything is such a good benefit. But at the same time, I'm an adult and I know how to find my own answers now."

Once they are comfortable in the classroom, home-schooled students often find it is then much easier to get to know their fellow students, experience the cultural diversity on campus and form new bonds.

"You all endure together, you all suffer together, you all celebrate together," Heimbecker said. "Some people really do like to study by themselves – sometimes I prefer that – but there's never been a class when I couldn't text someone if I had a question about something, or I missed a day of class and needed to get the notes. You always



Arielle Reynolds



Kendra Guerrero

have that available, just because you develop those interpersonal connections."

Making those connections also helps open the door for home-schooled students to take part in ASU's wide variety of extra-curricular activities. Peña is active in the ASU chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS), and Guerrero has a part-time job as a photographer in the university's Communications and Marketing Office.

*Home School – continued on next page*



Joshua Heimbecker



“I suppose my first thought,” Peña said, “was, ‘I should probably talk to some people and get to know some of them,’ and that seemed to work out. I really like that ACS is involved in the community.”

“This,” said Guerrero, “has been a really great experience for me. I’m learning a lot in my job, and I love how hands-on the art program is.”

In all, more than 100 student organizations on campus are waiting to welcome new members. Other university programs offer opportunities for playing intramural sports, performing community service, attending social and cultural events, and getting personalized help with any academic or social difficulties that may arise on ASU’s residential campus so that students feel right at home.

“I actually like that it’s small,” Reynolds said, “because I’ve been to a few large colleges in the state and I really did not like how big they were. I really like that ASU is very cozy feeling, like everything is within reach.”

“It was a really easy transition,” Guerrero said, “and it was a lot of fun. It was something different, something new, but it wasn’t hard or anything like that. It wasn’t too scary.” ■



Mickey Long



# Mr. Chairman

**Angelo State University** alumnus Mickey L. Long has been elected by his fellow regents as chairman of the Texas Tech University System (TTUS) Board of Regents after a two-year term as vice chairman.

Appointed a regent in 2009, Long became the first graduate of Angelo State to chair the TTUS Board since ASU joined the Texas Tech system in 2007.

“I am honored to have been elected to lead this group,” Long said. “The current momentum throughout the Texas Tech University System is exciting, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Board of Regents to help advance our institutions.”

Long, a 1976 ASU graduate and president of Westex Well Service LP in Midland, replaced Jerry Turner of Blanco as chairman at the board’s February meeting. Larry Anders, chairman and majority owner of Summit Alliance Cos. of Dallas, was elected board vice chairman at the same meeting.

Also installed at the February meeting were two new appointees and a returning appointee by Gov. Rick Perry. Tim Lancaster, president and CEO of Hendrick Health System in Abilene, and John Esparza, president and CEO of the Texas Motor Transportation Association in Austin, were appointed to replace former Regents Turner and John Field Scovell of Dallas. L. Frederick “Rick” Francis, executive chairman of WestStar Bank and Francis Properties in El Paso, was reappointed to the board.

Through its three institutions, the TTU System has more than 43,700 students, an annual operating budget of \$1.5 billion and approximately 17,000 employees focused on advancing higher education, health care, research and outreach. ■



# The Unbroken Circle

**Every budget** needs discretionary money to take care of unplanned opportunities or challenges as they arise.

Addressing that need for Angelo State University is the goal of the President’s Circle, a 46-year-old charitable organization established the same year that Angelo State awarded its first bachelor’s degrees. Since 1967, the President’s Circle has been raising unrestricted funds for the university.

Jamie Akin, executive director of development and alumni relations, said, “With a majority of the gifts to the university being designated to a particular area or program of the donor’s choice, the President’s Circle gives us flexibility when opportunities arise for our students and faculty.”

Annual President’s Circle memberships begin at \$1,000 with the funds going to a variety of needs identified by the ASU administration. President’s Circle funds have augmented such needs as:

- Equipment for nursing’s High Fidelity Simulation Lab, kinesiology’s Human Performance Lab and psychology’s Mobile Research Lab
- Program support for materials and educational opportunities through the Teacher Education Department’s early childhood education program
- Travel for physics students to take a field trip to Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Faculty retention initiatives through the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research

“Ultimately,” said ASU President Brian J. May, “this is about West Texas and what we at Angelo State can do to improve the educational experience for our students and the economic results for our community. Becoming a President’s Circle member gives ASU maximum flexibility to allocate funds where they are needed most to advance the academic needs and opportunities of the institution.”

Akin said the President’s Circle offers a variety of giving options to make it easy on any budget.

Those options include:

- An outright annual gift of \$1,000
- A \$1,000 pledge initiated with a bank draft of \$83.34 per month
- A \$1,000 pledge initiated with an automatic credit card withdrawal on a monthly or quarterly schedule
- An online gift through the “Online Giving” link at [www.angelo.edu/giving](http://www.angelo.edu/giving)
- A donation with a matching gift from your employer to qualify for the \$1,000 total

“One of my goals as president,” said May, “is to increase the discretionary funding available to ASU. Joining the President’s Circle is one of the major ways the university’s many friends can help ASU.”

“Everyone should remember,” he added, “that Angelo State University has a total economic impact of \$238 million annually on the city of San Angelo and Tom Green County, and that we at ASU are all in when it comes

to supporting the community and opening the doors of opportunity for everyone.”

Individuals interested in more information or in joining the President’s Circle should contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 325-942-2116. ■





# Moving Business

**Sometimes**, location really is everything.

The Angelo State University Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in December moved from the ASU Rassman Building to its new off-campus location in the newly renovated Business Resource Center at 69 N. Chadbourne St. in downtown San Angelo. In the short time since, the SBDC has already seen an increase in clients.

“An on-campus location for a community service is kind of a challenge,” said Dave Erickson, SBDC director. “This new location is more welcoming for our clients.”

Previously, parking and meeting space were always issues for SBDC clients. SBDC staff often faced the challenge of finding empty classrooms to meet with clients because their offices were not big enough to accommodate more than two or three people, and training sessions were limited by university class schedules.

But, the new location does more than just improve the SBDC’s office space. The Business Resource Center creates a “one-stop shop” for people who want entrepreneurial or economic development assistance. In addition to the SBDC, other entities with permanent offices in the Business Resource Center are the City of San Angelo Development Corp.

(COSADC) and the Concho Valley Center for Entrepreneurial Development, known as the Business Factory.

Groups with satellite offices at the new center are the Concho Valley Workforce Development Board; the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Division; and Downtown San Angelo Inc. Howard College Workforce Training also plans to conduct training sessions at the facility.

“Now that we are in the same location as our partners,” Erickson said, “we understand each other’s programs better and can walk clients over and introduce them to the other groups.”

In addition to seeing more clients, the SBDC has also seen an increase in attendance at its business training sessions. The new facility has a large space with equipment specifically set up for business training.

Jessica Lambert, business development training coordinator, said she can more easily market for business training sessions because the new location is easier to find and the other partners at the Business Resource Center can also spread the word among their visitors.

“There’s a lot of synergy being in the same location,” Lambert said. “We’re really starting to see it all come together. It’s very much a team effort.”

The new Business Resource Center is already fulfilling its mission of helping area businesses prosper. One Business Factory client, BEPC Inc., not only enjoys the resources available at the new site, but also benefits from having so many business experts close by.

“The SBDC has helped us research new markets for expanding the business,” said Pedro Ramirez, BEPC operations director. “We also needed a new employee manual.

They helped connect us with the resources to build that ourselves. A lot of other companies our size would have had to outsource something like that.”

A former business advisor for the SBDC, Ramirez plans to grow BEPC, a consulting company for *Fortune 500* companies, as much as possible. The Business Resource Center allows him to focus on that goal because the facility and operational costs are kept to a minimum.

“This whole facility and partnership has been extremely useful to BEPC,” Ramirez said. “We are so grateful to be able to take advantage of these resources. We’ve been able to grow our total employee head count from 40 people at the start of 2011 to close to 130 people by February of 2013. We would not have been able to grow at the rate that we have without them.” ■



San Angelo Chamber of Commerce President Phil Neighbors (left) and SBDC Director Dave Erickson at the December opening



Entrance to the Small Business Development Center



## Labor of Love and War

**For Harriet Lewis,** “Beloved Companion” offered a way to bring the written words of her Civil War ancestors to life. Dr. Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, coordinator of Angelo State’s Civil War Lecture Series, saw the dramatic work as a way for students and the public to reflect on the conflict in the words of those who lived it.

For Bill Doll, director of University Theatre, the back story was as exciting as the chance to provide another opportunity for students to participate in a stage production. And, for Karina Maldonado, president of the University Center Program Council, “Beloved Companion” allowed the UCPC to fund an original stage production.

The pieces all came together in April when “Beloved Companion: The Civil War Letters of James and Frances Catherine Wood” was produced as a dramatic reading on the University Auditorium stage as the 14<sup>th</sup> program in the Civil War Lecture Series. The performance drew from some 80 letters between Lewis’ great-great grandparents during the last nine months of the war in Virginia. James Wood enlisted in the 199<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania in the fall of 1864, leaving behind his wife, Fanny, and three daughters on their Pennsylvania farm.

Lewis, a member of the ASU physical therapy faculty, came into possession of the letters after the deaths of her parents. The letters were contained in a plastic bag labeled “New Jersey-American Water Company” and so innocuous that her husband, while helping her go through her parents’ effects, almost threw it away without looking inside.

“The near-mistake taught me the fragility of history and how easily it can be lost without us even realizing it,” Lewis said. “Though separated by war, my Wood grandparents were held together by their Christian

faith, her worrying that he would be killed and him fretting that she had to chop her own firewood to stay warm that cold winter.”

“There is one letter where she had to wear his boots to get through the snow to the barn and she asked him, ‘Do you not think it a good woman that can step in her husband’s shoes?’ There’s both pride and pathos in that question,” Lewis said.

After the History Department initiated the lecture series commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War, Lewis and her husband, Preston, who is editor of *ASU Magazine*, approached Wongsrichanalai about staging a dramatic reading. While the Lewises at first thought about doing the reading themselves, their ages did not fit, and while Pennsylvania native Harriet could sound Yankee, her native West Texan husband could not.

They and Wongsrichanalai then approached Doll, who bought into the idea of directing a stage production, provided the Lewises could come up with a suitable script. After Preston transcribed the original letters, Harriet began to compile and edit them, but found it difficult to trim almost 100 pages down to 20 pages of script. She then turned the heavy editing over to her husband.

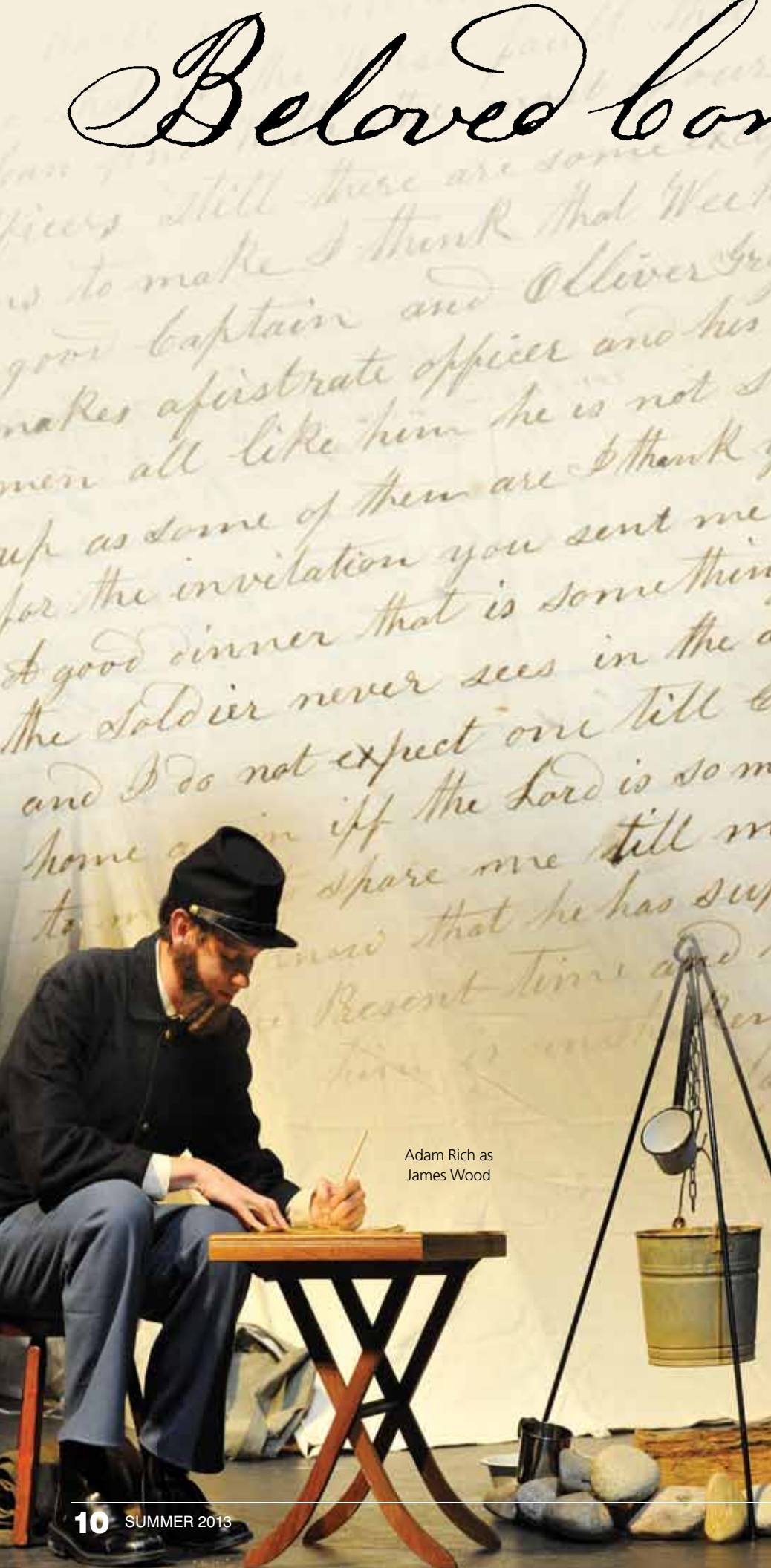
“I didn’t have the editorial pangs of conscience that Harriet did,” he said. “First of all, they weren’t my relatives. Second, they were Yankees.”

When the script was completed, Doll and Wongsrichanalai liked what they read. Only problem was, it would take money – about \$3,500 to be exact – to produce the reading in a lecture series that had operated on a shoestring. When the interested parties approached Maldonado and the other members of the UCPC board, they found a receptive audience.

“UCPC was intrigued by the educational and historical aspect of the event,” Maldonado said. “When planning events, we try to include various factors into our programming. What drew us in was the cultural value of the program as it would give students the opportunity to see the cultural differences our country has had over time. To my knowledge, this was the first time UCPC had sponsored an original stage production.”

The UCPC put up the majority of the funding with additional support from the Office of the President. Once the funding was in place, ASU actors Adam Rich and Blair Hitch were chosen to portray the Civil War couple, and Allison Brackin was selected to record violin solos. Then the production became a reality.

“Too often,” said Wongsrichanalai, “history is taught from 35,000 feet above and you can’t even see the people. ‘Beloved Companion’ presented – in touching prose and deep emotional resonance for contemporary students – the fear, pain and love of a simple family as they lived through the most dramatic period in American history.” ■



Adam Rich as James Wood



Harriet Lewis as narrator

Photos by Danny Meyer



Blair Hitch as Frances Wood



# An American Family: The Ewings

**Long before** the fictional Ewing family wielded pixelated power on the 1980s CBS hit series “Dallas,” the Thomas Ewing family of Ohio exercised legitimate clout on a national scale in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, though its influence was largely forgotten until now.

With this year’s publication of *Civil War Dynasty: The Ewing Family of Ohio*, ASU History Department Chair Dr. Kenneth J. Heineman has revived the memory of the clan described by one reviewer as “an American family story as big as ‘Bonanza’ and as tangled as ‘Dynasty.’”

As Heineman researched the Ewings, he came to view them as “the Forrest Gumps of the Civil War” because they seemed to be everywhere at the time.

Born in 1789 in Virginia and later moving to Ohio with his parents, family patriarch Thomas Ewing was a rags-to-riches success story, starting out as a “salt boiler,” who heated great pots of brine water to recover the salt. However, his inquisitive mind and his great intellect allowed him to learn Latin and French on his own, memorize Blackstone’s *Commentaries* on law, and become the first graduate of Ohio University, where Heineman would later teach for 18 years before moving to ASU.

After reading law, Ewing went into practice and by 1840 was earning \$1,000 a month as a lawyer, investing in canals in Ohio, getting involved in politics and refusing to give a government job to a young Illinois lawyer named Abraham Lincoln. Elected a Whig senator from Ohio, Ewing



Thomas Ewing  
Photo courtesy of the University of Notre Dame Archives

served from 1831-37 as a party mediator between the irascible Henry Clay of Kentucky and the eloquent Daniel Webster of Massachusetts. Later, he was secretary of the treasury under William Henry Harrison and the nation’s first secretary of the interior under Zachary Taylor. Further, Ewing’s political influence helped secure Andrew Johnson the vice presidential nomination with Lincoln on the 1864 Republican ticket.

Ewing and his wife, Maria Boyle, had four surviving sons, Philemon, Hugh, Thomas Jr. and Charles; two daughters, Ellen and Maria; and an adopted son, William Tecumseh Sherman, whose army career benefitted

greatly from the senior Ewing’s political influence. Sherman, of course, became a Union general as did Hugh, Thomas and Charles, earning the senior Ewing the sobriquet “Father of Generals.”

Hugh fought at South Mountain, Antietam, Vicksburg and Missionary Ridge. Thomas Jr. fought in the Trans-Mississippi Theater at Prairie Grove and Pilot Grove, as well as battled the Kansas-Missouri Guerrilla Insurgency. Charles participated in engagements at Vicksburg and Missionary Ridge and became the logistical wizard behind his foster brother’s March to the Sea.

“For all their accomplishments, both politically and militarily,” said Heineman, “they were on the wrong side of history.”

The Ewings tried to chart a course of moderation. The senior Ewing did not oppose slavery as much as its expansion, nor did he believe blacks were the equal of whites, branding the Emancipation Proclamation as a “pernicious document.”

“And,” Heineman said, “you never want to have on your résumé that you helped Andrew Johnson become president of the United States.”

“As a moderate who sought to split the difference between Radical Republicans and secessionist Democrats over the issue of the expansion of slavery and emancipation,” Heineman wrote, “Thomas Ewing was destined for failure.”

In that failure, however, is a fascinating American story. Though Heineman’s biography of the family cannot place the Ewings on the right side of history, it at least brings them out of its shadows. ■

## Civil War Visualized

**ASU design students** in April stepped back to the time of the Civil War to help Christoval celebrate the dedication of a monument at the city park that was first known as the Confederate Reunion Grounds.

As part of the celebration, the students from ASU’s Graphic Design Club created Civil War-themed posters, which debuted at Christoval’s Pioneer Museum the afternoon of the dedication. Though Christoval played no part in the Civil War, the community located 17 miles south of San Angelo was home for decades after the Civil War to Confederate reunions attended by both southern and Union veterans and their families.

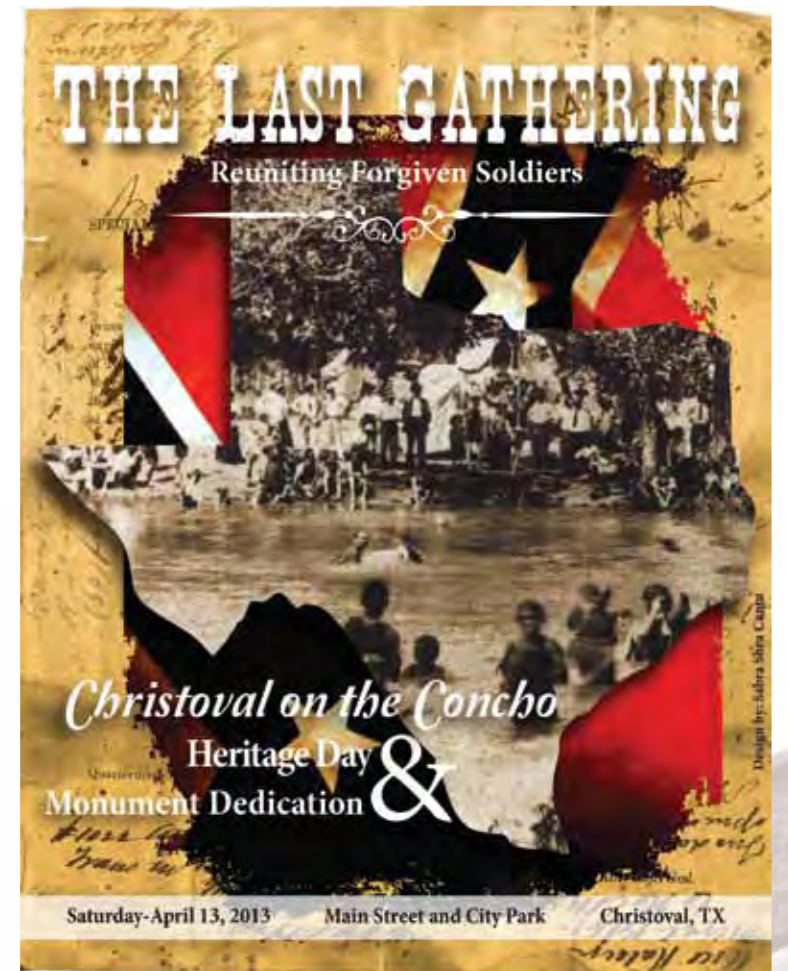
“We designed an exhibit of Civil War Union and Confederate posters to be previewed in the Pioneer Museum in Christoval,” said Alex Bryant, president of the Graphic Design Club. “We did scenes based on Christoval and the Civil War using material from the ASU West Texas Collection.”

Since what they were illustrating was outside their actual experience, the students watched documentaries, such as Ken Burns’ “The Civil War,” and viewed images from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to get a feel for the people and the era.

The task offered an extra challenge to Bryant and club advisor Edwin Cuenco, assistant professor of art, who are from England and the Philippines, respectively.

“My culture in the Philippines includes the Philippine-American War, which was over colonization by America, so the U.S. Civil War fascinates me,” Cuenco said.

Cuenco and his graphic design students worked with *Revitalize! Christoval* leaders Sylvia Pate and Kendall Green on the project, which provided an innovative exercise in community engagement. The *Revitalize! Christoval* tourism group planned to use the students’ work to promote events and to enhance the museum and its offerings. In return, ASU students picked up some valuable experience to enhance their résumés. ■



Poster design by communication major Sabra Cantu



# Hold the Onion, Please

by Tom Nurre

**Government-run** communist media should learn to hold the onions.

On Nov. 14, 2012, the satirical newspaper and website *The Onion* ran a story naming North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un as the “Sexiest Man Alive for 2012.” Despite *The Onion*’s well-known reputation for lampooning, the story was taken at face value and posted along with a 55-page photo tribute to Kim by the Korean website channel of China’s Communist Party newspaper *People’s Daily*. Before the snafu was realized and the story and photos were pulled from all Chinese and North Korean media, it was gleefully reported on by worldwide media, including *The Onion*, *Huffington Post*, *New York Daily News*, *The Guardian*, *USA Today*, CNN, the BBC and many others.

Dr. Bruce E. Bechtol Jr., ASU associate professor of political science, has written several critically acclaimed books on the North Korean government and military, and is regularly interviewed for his expertise by national and international media. He said

that, at least in North Korea, those members of the media fooled by *The Onion*’s story may have paid the ultimate price.

“Someone was probably executed, and maybe several somebodies,” Bechtol said. “At the very least, someone was purged, sent off to a concentration camp, of which they have several. That would be my guess, although we haven’t seen any reaction yet. Usually that information seeps out a good while after.”

While that may sound more like something from a Sylvester Stallone movie or Cold War novel, it is apparently the way things are still run in North Korea.

“The easiest way to think of the media in North Korea is to think of how it was in the Soviet Union in the 1960s, and then put that on steroids,” Bechtol said. “It is just ridiculous, almost to the point of not being believable. We’re talking stuff like reporting that the first time (former dictator) Kim Jong-Il went golfing, he scored a hole-in-one on every

hole. Because there is one-man autocratic rule, the media have gone even farther to the right than even the old Soviet media, or the Chinese media under Mao for that matter.”

With that mindset, it is no wonder the communist media fell for *The Onion*’s story, which read, “With his devastatingly handsome, round face, his boyish charm, and his strong, sturdy frame, this Pyongyang-bred heartthrob is every woman’s dream come true. Blessed with an air of power that masks an unmistakable cute, cuddly side, Kim Jong-Un made this newspaper’s editorial board swoon with his impeccable fashion sense, chic short hairstyle, and, of course, that famous smile.”

Another contributing factor could be how the Chinese and particularly the North Korean governments restrict their citizens’ access to the Internet.

“What many people don’t know is that in North Korea, there is no public access to the Internet,” Bechtol said. “Even computer science students at Kim Il-Sung University in Pyongyang only have access to an intranet; they cannot get on the Internet. There are probably less than 5,000 people in the whole country who can get on the Internet.”

“Up until December of 2011, to get on the Internet you had to have special permission signed by Kim Jong-Il,” he continued. “Now it is probably permission signed by Kim Jong-Un, obviously. Only the elite of the elite are allowed on the Internet.”

Since Kim Jong-Un was educated in Switzerland, some leaders around the world hoped that he might be more culturally sophisticated than his father or grandfather, but so far, little evidence has emerged to support that theory.

“The question is, ‘Does he understand things like the Western media, Western gov-

ernment or Western diplomacy?’” Bechtol said. “But, the jury is still out on that. He hasn’t been any better at understanding any of that stuff than his father was. It is something to be worried about because even most of the elite people don’t even understand the difference between *The Onion* and the *Wall Street Journal*.”

Another more recent example of that is how the North Korean media triumphantly reported on the March visit of ex-NBA star and multi-pierced, multi-tattooed spotlight-seeker Dennis Rodman, who tagged along with a Harlem Globetrotters humanitarian mission to basically party with Kim Jong-Un. While Rodman dominated North Korean news coverage by declaring Kim a “friend for life” and passing on Kim’s message that he just wanted U.S. President Barack Obama to call him and talk basketball, the U.S. media did little but mock Rodman for fostering propaganda at a time of particularly strained relations between the U.S. and North Korea.

“Kim Jong-Un is a huge NBA fan,” Bechtol said. “He went to a private school outside of Berne, Switzerland. He was a Chicago Bulls fan, and in his room when he was growing up he had pictures of Michael Jordan. So you can bet that Dennis Rodman got a lot of money to go to North Korea and hang out with him.”

Despite these and other periodic foibles by state-run communist media, Bechtol predicts that the North Korean government’s desperate attempts at information control must continue if its members and their elite friends are going to maintain their way of life. According to Bechtol, Kim Jong-Un owns more than 100 mansions, and the North Korean government is annually the world’s single largest customer for



Chivas Regal whiskey – and those are just two of the many perks they are desperate to hold on to.

“Information is something that the North Korean government takes really, really seriously,” Bechtol said, “more so than any other autocratic dictatorship on earth. The reason why is because right next door is one of the most transparent democracies on earth, and its people are Koreans, too. Right now, South Korea has the East Asian equivalent of Bollywood going on and ‘Gangnam Style’ and all that. That is

right on North Korea’s border, and the leaders are scared to death of something like that affecting their society.”

“Also, one in four North Koreans is related to a South Korean,” he added. “The government doesn’t want them to find out their South Korean cousins are driving Kias and Hyundais, watching cable TV and doing ‘Gangnam Style’ while they are eating tree bark. So, information control is a serious business because once the North Korean people figure out what is going on in the rest of the world, the government is finished.” ■



### Arnoldo De León

Dr. Arnoldo De León has been awarded the Premio Estrella de Aztlán Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor and recognition bestowed by the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS).

De León, the C.J. “Red” Davidson Professor of History, was honored for his lifetime of “scholarship, community activities and mentorship,” which led to the betterment of Hispanics in Texas and beyond. He received the national award in late February at the NACCS Tejas Conference at the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg.

His nomination letter called De León “a true pioneer in the field of Mexican-American history, especially the history of Texas Mexicans.”

An ASU alumnus and faculty member since 1973, De León is the author or editor of 20 major books and numerous articles on Mexican-American and Texas history.

### Michael Martin

Michael Martin, director of graphics in the Office of Communications and Marketing, has been named the third recipient of the Chancellor’s Col. Rowan Award for Excellence in Execution.

In his role as the university’s graphics director, Martin has been the most important, though largely behind-the-scenes, shaper of the univer-

sity’s graphic image for the last 35 years, designing everything from the university’s popular logo to *Angelo State University Magazine*. Martin was nominated for his ongoing dedication in getting the magazine out on deadline, even when final materials are late to him.

The Rowan Award recognizes a staff member who has gone above and beyond the call of duty on a major project. The recipient is selected by Chancellor Kent Hance of the Texas Tech University System.

### Excellent Staff

Four ASU staff members – Dennis Block, Nancy Budewig, Melody Kelley and Dallas Swafford – received President’s Awards for Staff Excellence for 2012 during spring ceremonies on campus.

Block, a research technician with the Department of Agriculture, received the President’s Award for Commitment to Excellence based on his willingness to take on new assignments at the ASU Ranch, always demonstrating a positive attitude and an eagerness to achieve.

Budewig, office coordinator for the Physical Therapy Program, earned the President’s Award for Excellence in Customer Service for her patience and skill in assisting applicants for the PT Program and in helping students once they enroll.

Kelley, office coordinator for the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, was recognized with the Presi-

dent’s Award for Excellence in Innovation for implementing improvements in both the operations and the efficiencies for the department.

Swafford, associate director of admissions, received the President’s Award for Excellence in Leadership, based on her longstanding commitment to ASU as demonstrated by her leadership with numerous committees and organizations, including the Staff Senate.

The honorees were selected from 35 non-teaching employees nominated by their ASU peers. Four awards are given each spring to recognize non-teaching staff members whose job performance exceeded the customary standards or who exhibited outstanding skill or dedication while performing special projects during the preceding calendar year. The recipients receive a \$1,000 honorarium and a presentation piece.

### Sean Motl

Sean Motl, a third-year student in ASU’s Honors Program, has been named a finalist for the prestigious Harry S. Truman Foundation Scholarship Competition that awards its winners \$30,000 each for graduate studies in preparation for careers in public service.

A psychology major from San Angelo, Motl is completing his pre-med requirements at ASU. As a finalist for the Truman Scholarship, he qualified for the regional interview.

In 2012, only 54 scholarships were awarded to winners spread throughout the U.S. and American Samoa. Texas had two winners last year, both students at Rice University.

To be eligible for the competition, students must be nominated by a Truman faculty representative and complete an extensive application.

“Just completing the application process itself is worthy of recognition,” said Dr. Shirley Eoff, Honors Program director. “But making the interview round is a true mark of distinction for Sean, for ASU and for our Honors Program.”

A first-generation college student, Motl hopes to earn an M.D./Ph.D. in medical anthropology in preparation for work with Doctors Without Borders or a similar organization.

### William A. Taylor

Dr. William A. Taylor, assistant professor of security studies, has been awarded a prestigious 2013 Harry S. Truman Library Research Grant by the Harry S. Truman Library Institute for National and International Affairs for research this summer.

The grant will cover his research expenses at the Truman Library and also provide for personal administrative assistance from the senior library archivist. Grant recipients are determined by the Truman Library Institute’s Committee on Research, Scholarship and Academic Relations.

Taylor will conduct research for his upcoming book, *Every Citizen A Soldier: The U.S. Army’s Campaign for Universal Military Training Following World War II*, which will be published by Texas A&M University Press upon completion. Taylor is analyzing the President’s Advisory Commission on Universal Training established by Truman’s Executive Order 9981 after World War II.

Taylor previously received a 2012 George C. Marshall/Baruch Fellowship to conduct research at the Marshall Research Library in Lexington, Va., on George C. Marshall’s role in the U.S. Army’s campaign for Universal Military Training following World War II.

### Students of Russian

Belia Maria Reyes Godoy and Marcus Nellums, students in ASU’s Russian language program, have received scholarships coordinated by the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies to continue their studies in Moscow this summer.

Godoy, a senior political science major, was awarded her scholarship by the Moscow-Texas Connections program to study at the prestigious Higher School of Economics in Moscow from June 10-Aug. 16.

Nellums is a senior ROTC cadet with a psychology major and dual minor in criminal justice and aerospace studies. His scholarship is through Project

GO! (Global Officers), a collaborative initiative promoting critical language education, study abroad and intercultural dialogue opportunities for ROTC students. He will study at Moscow International University from June 4-Aug. 5.

### Amy Williamson

Dr. Amy Williamson, an assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, has been appointed to the 2013 class of Leadership Texas.

Now in its 31<sup>st</sup> year, Leadership Texas is the flagship program of the Texas-based Women’s Resources nonprofit corporation, which seeks to help women become better, more informed leaders in Texas communities, organizations and corporations.

Williamson joined 91 other Texas women participating in the yearlong leadership development program that will take them to four Texas cities for meetings with government officials and other leaders to help participants understand the changes in Texas’ economy, education and environment.

### Student Biologists

Two Angelo State biology students won top prizes for their research presentations at the annual meeting of the Texas Society of Mammalogists in February at the Texas Tech University Center at Junction.

Senior Malorri Hughes won the Vernon Bailey Award and

a \$400 honorarium for best poster presentation in classical mammalogy at the organismal level for her project “Prevalence of the Sinus Roundworm, *Skirjabingylus chitwoodorum*, in Rabies-Negative Texas Skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*).” Her faculty research mentor was Dr. Robert Dowler.

Graduate student Wesley Brashear won the Clyde Jones Award and a \$400 honorarium for best poster presentation in studies pertaining to mammalian cytology, evolution and systematics. His project on bat systematics was titled “Further Evidence for the Basal Divergence of Cheiromeles (Chiroptera: Molossidae).” Dr. Loren Ammerman is the faculty research mentor for Brashear and his research partner, fellow graduate student Sarah Bartlett.

ASU biology graduate Molly McDonough, now a Ph.D. student at Texas Tech, won the Robert Packard Award for best overall research paper presentation.

### John E. Klingemann

Dr. John E. Klingemann, an assistant professor of history, was selected to attend the Executive Leadership Academy (ELA) sponsored by the Center for Studies in Higher Education and the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education.

ELA is an intensive training institute for higher education faculty and administrators. Candidates are nominated for

the academy based upon their interest in and potential for serving in executive positions in higher education.

Klingemann attended the academy in March at the University of California at Berkeley, home of the Center for Studies in Higher Education, a multidisciplinary research and policy center focused on state, national and international issues in education.

### Danny Meyer, Michael Martin

University Photographer Danny Meyer and ASU Director of Graphics Michael Martin have been recognized for their work by District IV of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Meyer earned a gold medal for Color Photography–Athletics for “Stretched to the Limit,” a photo of Rams outfielder Ryan Greer diving for a fly ball during a home baseball game last season.

Martin received a silver medal for Design–Publication Design Series for the “Get Advised, Then Get Away Campaign,” which encouraged students last academic year to get advised before spring break.

The awards were announced at the CASE District IV annual meeting in March. District IV includes universities in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. ■



## TExES Perfection

For the 16<sup>th</sup> straight year, ASU students have maintained a 100 percent passing rate on the Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) teacher certification test for secondary mathematics.

Eight ASU students took the TExES in January, and their average score of 279 out of 300 is the highest average ever posted by an ASU class. It is also well above last year's state average score of 227. The perfect passing rate streak began in 1998 and since then, all 158 of the ASU students who have taken the exam after completing the mathematics program have passed.

Ellen Moreland, senior mathematics instructor and teacher of the capstone course that the students must complete as a final preparation for the TExES, said, "The fact that all of our students continue to pass the Mathematics TExES with scores that are so much higher than the state average shows that the ASU mathematics program is an excellent program that gives our students the background they need to be successful in their future careers."

ASU students who took the latest test were Eloy Acevedo, Laura Aguilar, Emily Booth, Lauren Couch, Debra Ohl, Lacy Osborne, Aaron Perkins and Katy Williams.

## Handball Title

The Handball Club won its second consecutive overall Division 2 national championship at the 61<sup>st</sup> U.S. Handball Association National Collegiate Championship Tournament in February at Arizona State University.

ASU's men totaled 1,078 points and the women scored 264 for a team total of 1,342 to win the combined title ahead of second-place finisher University of West Florida with 604 points. The ASU women won the Women's Division 2 team championship while the ASU men finished third in the Men's Division 2 competition.

Individual national champions for ASU were Drew Biggerstaff in Men's Division 2, Class C, and Anthony Bryson in Men's Division 3, Class B. Also for ASU, James Daughtery and Dustin Oswalt both reached the individual semifinals in the Men's Division 2, Class B, and Wes Bond reached the individual quarterfinals in the Men's Division 2, Intermediate Class. Other ASU team members competing at the tournament were Josh DeWaters, Ryan Henry, Joby Winfrey, John Zafereo and Elizabeth Casarez.

The Handball Club is coached by Dr. Warren Simpson, professor of kinesiology, and supported through the ASU Center for Student Involvement.

## Judging Teams

The Agriculture Department's Meat Judging Team finished 2012 ranked in the top five nationally following a fifth-place finish at the International Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest in November at Tyson Foods Inc. in Nebraska.

The high national finish culminated a year that saw the ASU team finish in the top 10 at all seven of the contests it entered, including five top-five finishes and a first-place victory at last year's Southeastern Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest, all against teams from Division I universities.

Members of ASU's 2012 Meat Judging Team were Kameron Haecker of New Braunfels, William Meyer of Cibolo, Darren Seidel of Sanderson, Caitlyn Van Slambrouck of Selma and Kylee Werland of Columbus. They were coached by Dr. Kirk Braden, associate professor of animal science, and animal science graduate student Michael Boenig.

In other competitions, ASU's Wool Judging Teams placed first and third at the 2013 San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo Collegiate Wool Contest in February against teams from Texas Tech, Texas A&M, New Mexico State and Kansas State.

ASU's Livestock Judging Team took second place overall at the annual Arizona National Livestock Judging Contest last

December in Phoenix against seven teams from Division I universities. The ASU team finished second overall to the University of Arkansas and took second in sheep judging and third in the beef judging, swine judging and reasons categories.

## Nursing Ranks

The nursing program has been ranked in the top 100 nationally for its online graduate degree offerings by *U.S. News and World Report* for its 2013 edition of *Best Online Programs*.

Ranked No. 64 overall, ASU was one of eight Texas institutions to make the top 100 list. The rankings were compiled from the 471 colleges and universities that *U.S. News and World Report* identified as offering master's degree nursing programs.

Dr. Susan Wilkinson, chair of ASU's Department of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences, said, "ASU has offered the Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) program online for approximately eight years, and this is nice recognition from independent evaluators that we offer a quality program that meets the needs of the online student."

The criteria used to con-figure the rankings included weighted scores in the categories of student engagement (35 percent of score), faculty credentials and training (25 percent), admission selectivity (20 percent), and student services and technology (20 percent).

## Physics Engagement

The Society of Physics Students (SPS) has been honored with a 2012-13 Future Faces of Physics Project Award and corresponding grant by the SPS National Office.

The ASU group earned the award for its project titled "ALPHAS: Alta Loma Peers Helping the Advancement of Science." The award also includes a \$300 grant that was used to help implement the program this past semester at San Angelo's Alta Loma Elementary School. The program seeks to create and maintain a partnership between the Angelo State SPS and Alta Loma students for the purpose of advancing science education in grades 3-5.

Dr. Hardin Dunham, ASU assistant professor of physics and SPS faculty advisor, said the goal of the Future Faces of Physics Awards is to support projects designed to promote physics across cultures. The ASU chapter was one of only six nationally to win an award for 2012-13.

## Up and Down

ASU's spring enrollment figures mirrored the fall with another record graduate enrollment and a drop in undergraduate numbers, bringing the overall spring totals to 6,149 after a record 2012 spring enrollment of 6,379 students.

Graduate enrollment reached 898, marking the seventh con-

secutive long semester in which the College of Graduate Studies has recorded an enrollment high. By comparison, 841 graduate students were enrolled last spring.

As was expected after a drop in fall undergraduate enrollment, the spring totals were down as well with 5,251 undergraduates taking classes, compared to 5,538 a year ago. The 2013 overall spring headcount was down 3.6 percent or 230 students, reflecting the increase of 57 in graduate students and the drop of 287 in undergraduates.

The spring totals counted enrolled students as of the 20<sup>th</sup> class day (Feb. 11), the date used for official enrollment by institutions in the Texas Tech University System.

Comparisons by classification of the spring 2013 and 2012 enrollments with the percentage change were: freshman, 1,074, 1,215, -11.6 percent; sophomore, 1,203, 1,391, -13.5 percent; junior, 1,246, 1,250, -.003 percent; senior, 1,598, 1,547, 3.2 percent; unclassified, 130, 135, -.03 percent; graduate, 898, 841, 6.7 percent; and total, 6,149, 6,379, -3.6 percent.

Total graduate and undergraduate semester credit hours for this spring were 75,463, compared to last spring's 77,746, a 2.9 percent decline. ■



Top: Carmen Tafolla and Cristina Garcia speak at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Writers Conference in Honor of Elmer Kelton. Above: Retired U.S. Ambassador Robert E. Gribbin was featured at the E. James Holland-Roy A. Harrell Jr. Foreign Affairs Speakers Program in February. Below: 2013 West Texas Medical Associates Moon lecturer Dr. Edward Burger.



Check out what ASU's distinguished speakers had to say this spring on campus by visiting "Mathematics Monkey Business," "Advancing Africa" and "Inspiring Writers" at [www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine](http://www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine).





Spider photos by Lynn McCutchen

# Spider mania

by Tom Nurre

## For students interested in creepy crawlies



Ned Strenth

and things that sting in the night, the ASU Biology Department offers the course of their dreams.

Each June, Dr. Ned Strenth teaches the three-week course “Biology of the Arachnids” at the Texas Tech University campus in Junction, along with Lynn McCutchen, an ASU graduate and biology instructor at Kilgore College. It is open to both undergraduate and graduate students at ASU and other institutions, and they receive Special Topics course credit upon completion.

Arachnids include spiders, scorpions, ticks, mites and similar organisms, and Texas is the Mecca for scientists and students wanting to study them.

“You can draw a 250-300-mile circle around Junction, and we have all nine major groups of arachnids in it,” Strenth said. “Texas is unique in that way, and it makes Junction a great place to teach this course.”

“Most of the courses you find for arachnology are either spider courses, scorpion courses or both,” he added. “We cover those and everything else. We alternate between lab and lecture, but it is very field intensive. The students do a lot of specimen collecting.”

In addition to collecting near the Junction campus, class members also load up their gear and head out into remote Texas ranges. Junior biology major Tim Maddox took the course last summer.



Classroom photos by Danny Meyer

Tim Maddox

“You get to go to some really astounding places,” Maddox said. “One of our trips was to Seminole Canyon, and we got to go to Eagle Nest Canyon, which is really a beautiful place, and Big Bend National Park as well. They are some of the best places to collect specimens. You get some really nice diversity, and the scenery is wonderful. We had a good time out there.”

“We have field trips to southern Val Verde County,” Strenth added, “and we go out to Brewster County. Dr. Robert and Jean Ann LeGrand give us access to their Big Oak River Ranch near the headwaters of the Devil’s River. We’ve found several groups of arachnids there that we just haven’t found anywhere else. It’s a real hotbed of our activity.”

The home bases for those field trips include the Llano River Field Station, Seminole Canyon Park, Black Gap Wildlife Management Area and the guesthouse owned by Jack Skiles at Eagle Nest Canyon. From there, the students fan out to collect specimens and to win the special baseball caps that are awarded for specific rare finds.

“It’s a really tight group of students,” Strenth said. “It’s a pretty intense course as we just go straight through for 18 days. They will go out black lighting for scorpions at night. You can see their headlamps, and they keep in contact using cell phones when they find something.”

“What I found that won me a cap,” Maddox said, “is called a rake-legged mite. It’s a really small little guy. The first two caps were won by other students. Someone found a tarantula and someone found a solifugid,

and after that the contest was pretty fierce. A fellow classmate and I were competing for a particular cap and I managed to find those rake-legged mites to win it.”

But, the field trips were not always as comfortable as they are now for the students or instructors. Before moving it to the Junction campus, Strenth taught the arachnids course in 2007 at the Instituto Tecnológico de Ciudad Victoria in Tamaulipas, Mexico.

“When we used to teach the class in Mexico, we stayed in some real dive motels,” Strenth said. “We’re talking beds with no mattresses, stuff like that. My one rule was that we didn’t black light for scorpions in the rooms. If there were scorpions in there, I hadn’t seen them and I didn’t want to know about them.”

“When you black light for scorpions,” he continued, “it looks like an eerie landscape out of a Spielberg movie, like a cemetery at midnight or ‘Night of the Living Dead.’ I didn’t need to see that in my hotel room.”

The course hit its biggest snag when it almost lost funding due to state budget cutbacks after only one year in Junction. Coming to the rescue was ASU President Brian J. I interim p for acade

“Dr. I said he Strenth s now from Dr. May.

Spiders – c





# Ranch Gone Wild

**Outside the fenced areas** of Angelo State's Management, Instruction and Research (MIR) Center lies several thousand acres of rangeland teeming with West Texas wildlife.

For as much time spent by ASU Agriculture Department faculty and students maintaining the MIR Center's livestock operation, an equal amount is spent managing the untamed habitat that is home to white tail deer, quail, turkeys, songbirds, skunks, raccoons, possums, foxes, bobcats, javelinas and many other smaller mammals. The range and wildlife management efforts are overseen by ag professor and research scientist Dr. Cody Scott.

"As far as animals go, you name it and we've got it," Scott said. "A lot of our efforts are on total habitat management. If we manage for a diversity of plants, then we should also have a diversity of animals, and so on. It's not atypical of what a lot of ranches do."

"Typically," he added, "we think of wildlife management as focusing on mammals and birds, but it basically comes down to balancing the habitat needs of all wildlife species, providing sufficient food, water and cover. To do that, we do a lot of habitat management and habitat improvement."

On the plant side of the operation, which includes non-grassy herbs and wildflowers, generically termed forbs, the main components are brush control and limiting the advance of invasive plant species.

"We do prescribed burning to improve forage quality and remove dead standing materials," Scott said. "Most of the plants we deal with tolerate fire very well. With grasses, forbs and shrubs, the re-grow that we see tends to be more nutritious and more readily available. There are also times we'll bring in the bigger mechanical equipment to clear trees that have gotten too dense, and this summer we plan to aerial spray some mesquite."

"Livestock grazing is also a great tool," he continued. "Cattle consuming grasses allows some other plants to establish, grow and produce. We also do IPT, or individual plant treatment, that allows us to target removal of specific plants. We might remove prickly pear from a particular region or spray the mesquite in a particular area. One of the things we've been doing at O.C. Fisher Reservoir is using goats to remove salt cedar."

On the animal side of the operation, things get a little more complicated as faculty and students must balance the needs of game animals, like deer, quail and turkeys, with the needs of non-game animals and even predators.

"With deer, we keep the numbers in check so that we have a healthy, productive and stable population," Scott said, "and we primarily use hunting to do that. Our hunters pay us a trespass fee to come on the ranch and hunt, but they really provide

us a service as well. We focus on removing animals that are mature and have reached their prime in terms of production. We're not interested in shooting Bambi."

"Most other wildlife species tend to cycle and regulate themselves," he added. "Because of our interest in wildlife and livestock, we also monitor predator numbers closely. We do annual predator surveys, and if we see a situation where bobcat, fox or even coyote numbers are increasing, then we'll take appropriate actions to reduce those, primarily through trapping."

Annual public deer hunts generate much of the funding used for the various range and wildlife management activities at the MIR Center, more commonly called the ASU Ranch. To prepare for the hunts, faculty and students conduct both spotlight and aerial surveys.

"We have a predetermined route that we drive every year for three consecutive nights," Scott said. "We use the spotlight and count deer by looking at eye shine, and that gives us a good estimate of deer numbers. We also do a helicopter survey that gives us a good estimate of herd health, the number of bucks and does, and the fawn crop."

"After we do our surveys and decide how many deer we need to harvest, we do a public draw for hunters," he continued. "The first two hunts are trophy buck hunts, but they can also shoot a doe if they want to. We have eight hunters one weekend, then skip a weekend, then have eight more, and all those hunts are guided by either a full-time employee or a graduate or undergraduate student."

Senior animal science major Ryan Haas has participated in just about every facet of the range and wildlife management program, including spotlight deer counts, prescribed burnings and spraying for invasive plant control. But, his favorite part has been guiding the public deer hunts, which are true free-range hunts, meaning there are no fences to pen the animals in and there is no guarantee of even finding a suitable deer to harvest.

"The hunters have paid their dues, so if they see the first deer and want to shoot it, so be it," Haas said. "Our job as guides is to give them our opinion on what a deer may score in points. Our management goals mean we only want to shoot deer that are



Photos by Danny Meyer

Animal science senior Ryan Haas adjusts a deer feeder at the Management, Instruction and Research Center.

a certain age, and we want them to score well. If someone is going to pay us money, we want them to come out with the best deer we can find for them. That is where the work comes in."

"We bring in money from the deer hunts," he added, "and that goes to support graduate student and other research, which is an awesome deal in itself. But, we can also use the data we collect from our deer herd to show how our efforts and our management are paying off. It's really cool to see how everything comes together at the end."

The various wildlife and range management activities also give students hands-on experience that will help them prepare for careers after graduation.

"Our graduates have taken jobs with Texas Parks and Wildlife, University Lands, which is the largest landowner in Texas, and the General Land Office," Scott said. "The biggest employer that we've had recently is the USDA Natural Resource Conservation

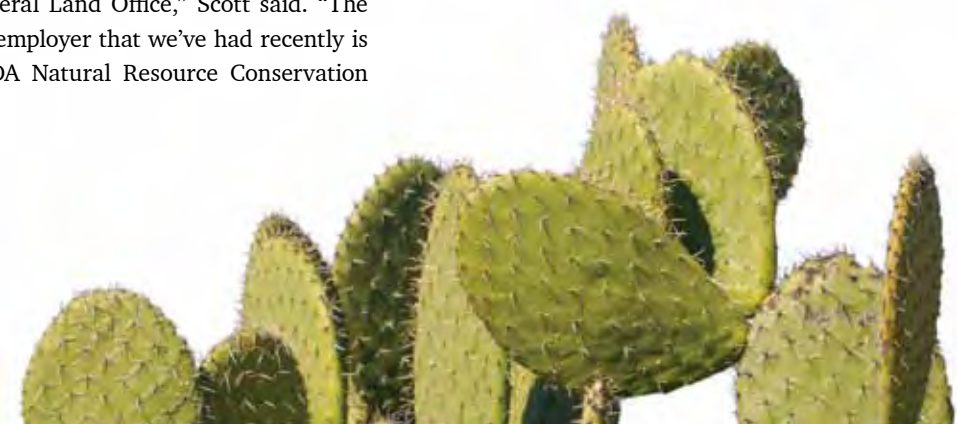
Service. We have graduates working in land reclamation for oil companies and as 'land men' helping write lease agreements with landowners. A lot of them also go into other areas of agriculture."

"The way I learn is by doing," Haas said. "We work animals with the professors and we do range management. I've even done a research project on controlling mesquite and prickly pear. Whether it's animal science, meat and food production, or range and wildlife management, we get to see everything from the production side of it to the finished product side."

"The ranch is a place where you can practice what you preach, and you just don't get that at a lot of other schools," he added. "It is what drew me here, and it hasn't disappointed at all." ■



Cody Scott







Micheal Salisbury and Lindsay Waddell at the MIR Center

Photo by Danny Meyer

# Livestock Lessons

**Students planning to join** the Angelo State Agriculture Department should know going in that they are most likely going to get a bit dirty.

Regardless of what area of the agriculture industry they are interested in, ASU ag students all get up close and personal with the sheep, goats and cattle kept at the Management, Instruction and Research (MIR) Center, more commonly called the ASU Ranch.

“Our philosophy is that any degree you get from the Agriculture Department, you’re going to have an understanding of livestock production,” said Dr. Micheal Salisbury, department chair. “Maybe you want to be a banker. Well, to be an efficient banker working with the ag industry, you’ve got to have an understanding of livestock production, breeding and genetics, range management and nutrition. All our degree plans get the students out to the ranch to learn general livestock production.”

“Ag production today is not what it was even 10 years ago,” he added. “It’s not all cows and plows anymore. It’s becoming more and more about science and technology.”

Undergraduate students are introduced early to some of that technology during the lab portions of their classes at the ranch.

“We use portable ultrasound equipment to determine pregnancy in our cattle, as well as in our sheep and goats,” Salisbury said. “Students also learn how to measure muscle mass for use as a selection tool in picking the best males for breeding. They also learn general animal husbandry and care practices, and work on the management side when the crews come in to shear our sheep. They learn to sort and separate wool and mohair to get the greatest value for it.”

New graduate student Lindsay Waddell went through all that while earning her ASU bachelor’s degree in agribusiness.

“We had one class all about animal behavior,” she said. “We had to learn how to

*“I’d rather learn it firsthand than just have someone tell me about it in a classroom.”*

— graduate student Lindsay Waddell

work with the livestock without spooking them or getting them too excited. Other times, we did sonograms on ewes, and for Dr. Salisbury’s reproduction class, we palpated cows. That is where you have to reach right in and feel around to determine how pregnant the cows are. I also observed a class that was doing artificial insemination with sheep, and that was really interesting.”

Growing up in Buda, just south of Austin, Waddell did not get much of an agriculture background. Initially a pre-veterinary medicine major as an undergraduate, she changed her major to agribusiness with an eye toward working in feed and/or drug sales. As she pursues her graduate studies, she acknowledges the value of learning about livestock from nose to tail.

“You learn to take the business of raising animals more seriously,” Waddell said. “Also, the people who live their lives farming and ranching don’t want someone who has never worked with livestock to try to sell them feed for their animals. I don’t want to go out and try to tell those people what to do if I haven’t experienced it myself, and I’d rather learn it firsthand than just have someone tell me about it in a classroom.”

“Honestly, I even enjoyed the palpating,” she added. “That cow is looking at you like, ‘What the heck is going on?’ but you are determining how pregnant it is, and that was

cool. I don’t get grossed out that easy and it doesn’t bother me to be shoulder-deep inside a cow. It’s more interesting to me because I’m learning and discovering.”

Waddell is also one of many undergraduate and graduate students who are taking what they learn in classes and labs and applying it toward outside research projects looking at ways to improve livestock nutrition, production and breeding.

“The biggest negative economic impact any livestock industry can suffer is the loss of reproductive efficiency,” Salisbury said. “Whether it’s cows that should be pregnant but aren’t, or sheep losing fetuses for some reason, things like that. If we can identify a problem and a management technique to alleviate it, then we can take that information to producers and help with their reproduction efforts.”

Any new research data can also be applied at the ASU Ranch as it must annually sell bulls, rams and billies to raise money to sustain its various operations.

“We have to continually improve our breeding males to make them better than those of the average producer,” Salisbury said. “That way, the producers will want to buy ours to improve their own stock. With the students, we pick out the superior males and we do our own data collection. We monitor growth and weight gain, and use that data to choose which males to breed to our females. We also utilize artificial insemination on our cows to improve their offspring. We might have our cows bred to 15 different bulls.”

In addition to preparing students for future careers and helping supplement the ranch’s income, the results of student and faculty research are disseminated as widely as possible to benefit the entire agriculture industry.

*Livestock – continued on page 47*





# H<sub>2</sub>Ooooooh!

by Preston Lewis

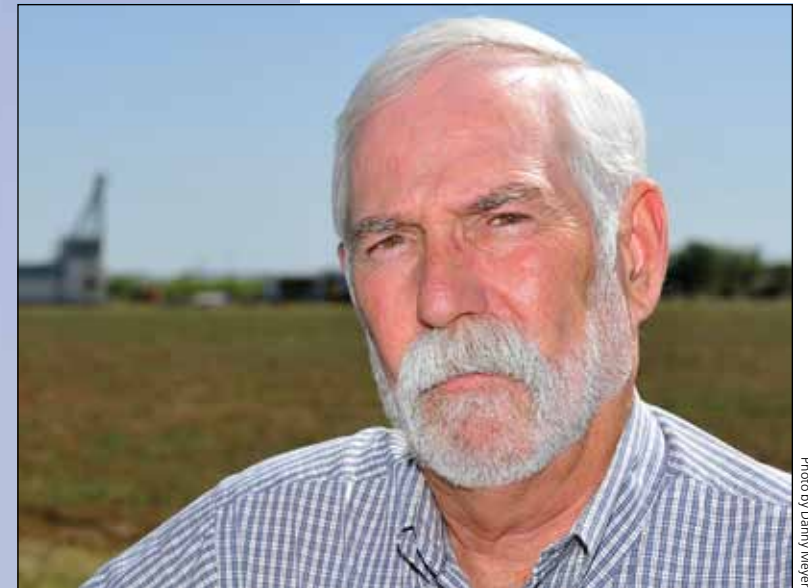


Photo by Danny Meyer

R. Gary Pumphrey

**Dr. R. Gary Pumphrey**, a geographer on ASU's history faculty, is trying to help people understand something they cannot even see.

The breadbasket of America, which is irrigated not only by the sweat of farm families but also by the invisible Ogallala Aquifer in eight Great Plains states, is running out of time – and water.

Governmental policy and energy production are making the situation worse. Ultimately, decisions must be made to ensure water for the cities and communities that overlie the aquifer in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wyoming and Texas.

Therein resides the paradox. To thrive, agriculture requires the same water that those communities need to survive. Reducing water to agriculture could wind up hurting those same communities economically.





“Too often,” Pumphrey said, “groundwater is viewed as a commodity rather than the resource it is.”

While residents of the Great Plains understand the implications of drought because they see them daily, the decline of the Ogallala is less tangible. Consequently, it is harder to achieve political consensus on what can and should be done, even though agriculture accounts for 95 percent of all the Ogallala groundwater used and is in direct competition with municipalities for the quasi-finite resource.

To better understand public perceptions of the water issue, Pumphrey conducted a survey of nearly 3,000 people in 29 Ogallala communities in six of the eight Ogallala states as part of a prestigious three-year, \$747,528 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, which was an extension of his doctoral dissertation that examined opinions in six Texas counties. The NSF project was conducted in conjunction with researchers at North Carolina A&T State University and Texas Tech University.

While the project, titled “Changing Societal Attitudes Towards Water Scarcity: Ethanol Production and Increasing Groundwater Depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer,” examined the impact of the biofuel industry on public perceptions, the results would be applicable to other industrial groundwater uses, such as the induced hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, now being used by the oil industry to squeeze more petroleum out of the ground.

The study specifically looked at the implications of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, subsequently amended by the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act, mandating a Renewable Fuels Standard and calling for an increase in the annual amount of ethanol to be mixed with gasoline sold in the U.S.

These acts created an increased market for field corn, the favored feedstock for ethanol, because the federal law sought to increase ethanol production from 4 billion gallons in 2006 to 7.5 billion gallons by 2012. By the end of 2012, estimates put the U.S. ethanol production capacity at 12 billion gallons, three times the amount produced in 2006.

The latest problem brought on by the federal mandates is simply that corn is the most water-intensive crop grown in the region. Corn production can take almost twice as much water to grow as cotton, wheat or sorghum, the other major crops in the region. In the Kansas/Nebraska region, it takes 2,150 gallons of water to produce a bushel of corn, in addition to natural rainfall, and an additional 750 gallons of water to produce a gallon of ethanol.

“There’s a lot of corn being grown and there’s a lot of ethanol being produced from the corn,” Pumphrey said, “but you still have 2.3 million people in the region who depend on the aquifer.”

The Ogallala is the largest underground water-bearing formation in the U.S. and the principal source for the region’s municipal, agricultural and industrial needs. In fact, almost 30 percent of all the groundwater that is used for irrigation in the U.S. comes from the Ogallala.

Because of the rate of removal, the aquifer is, in effect, being mined. Estimated annual recharge to the Ogallala ranges from 0.02 inches per year in Texas and New Mexico to 6 inches per year in the northeastern-most section of the aquifer. The saturated thickness or depth of the water-bearing formation from before it was first tapped for large-scale irrigation in the 1950s until the present has declined in most places 100 or more feet, including a 234-foot drop in portions of Texas.

“Increased ethanol production has significant implications not only for the region’s agriculture, but also for its industries and municipalities,” Pumphrey said. “These added withdrawals on top of existing groundwater extractions over many years create a direct path to disaster in the very near future.”

“To address this issue, we need to encourage conservation, but to do that we must develop approaches that are both efficient and effective, as well as politically feasible,” he continued. “Our research sought to identify the best strategies to preserve the aquifer and avoid potential conflicts between water users.”

In conducting the survey, Pumphrey measured attitudes toward both free-market and regulatory approaches to allocating water as the aquifer diminishes both in quantity and quality at the same time that the price goes up.

“As the saturated thickness shrinks, you have more dissolved solids in the remaining water,” Pumphrey said. “With a higher concentration of dissolved solids, the quality of the water starts to go down. On top of that, as your water table drops, it is farther from the surface, requiring deeper wells, longer casing and more energy to pump the water to the surface. So, your expense goes up as the water quality goes down.”

On the positive side, Pumphrey said, residents of the region generally are aware of the inevitability of the aquifer’s demise at current use rates and do recognize that conservation is necessary, whether during droughts or permanently. While the public resists the vague notion of increasing water prices for conservation, the survey found that most residents would be willing to accept modest price increases for the purposes of conservation, paying a small price today in order to forestall significant expenses in the future.

While residents clearly acknowledge the importance of the agricultural and ethanol industries in their region, Pumphrey said his research team found less resistance than was anticipated in making these industries pay “their fair share” for the water they use. That is a fine concept, but not always workable when water rights may belong to individuals or companies, rather than be consolidated under the control of a single entity.

“In the end, price rationing by municipalities may be a more effective prescription for conserving water than regulatory policies, such as limiting lawn watering or car washing and fining for waste or excessive use,” Pumphrey said.

“It is a complicated problem,” he said, “and it may require some sort of a brotherhood or family attitude for people to conserve that resource for the common good. We’re getting to the point where we will have to face up to it for our own good as a region and as a nation.” ■

## biodiversity



Photo by Danny Meyer

**When it comes to exploring the Great Outdoors,** not all biology researchers are created equal because they must carry different equipment for their varied quarry.

These biology students display some of the tools of the trade: front row (L to R), Lauren Langley, Bryce Hubbell, Austin Osmanski, Larry Gilbert and Thomas Horsley; and back row, Clint Morgan, Krysta Demere, Katie Jones and Ramey Wauer.

Langley, an insect researcher, uses a net, forceps, backpack and plastic bags, while Hubbell, who studies reptiles and amphibians, uses a hook, and Osmanski, a snake enthusiast, employs snake tongs and shin guards. Gilbert is appropriately outfitted with a net and rubber boots as a fish parasitologist, while Horsley, who studies bats, uses harp traps and gloves to snare his subjects.

On the back row, Morgan uses radio telemetry equipment and live animal traps for his work on various mammals, and Demere uses an AnaBat to study bat echolocation frequencies. Jones employs binoculars as an assistant on multiple research projects, and Wauer uses a spade and plant press for collecting and preserving West Texas flora. ■



# Campus Connections

by Jayna Phinney



Tara Hart

**Get them interested** and give them something to talk about on the ride home.

That is the goal of the ASU Admissions Office when conducting campus tours for prospective students and their parents. The admissions staff accomplishes that by having trained student tour guides, known as RAMbassadors, share stories about their own campus experiences. Tara Hart, associate director of admissions, said those personal stories go a long way in the recruiting process.

“Prospective students want to know what is exciting about living in a residence hall,” Hart said. “They want to know what you do for fun at night or on the weekends. They also want to know about the community of San Angelo. They want to find out about the social opportunities and what it’s like to be in class and how much books really cost. They definitely relate to someone their own age, and we want them to.”

Conducted weekdays, campus tours can range from two or three to 20 students and their families. RAMbassador Kevin Castro prefers the smaller groups because he can

better tailor the information to the specific interests of the individuals.

“I tell them about campus dining and how I use the library,” said Castro, a senior marketing major. “I tell them that I work out at the CHP, and I also tell them how good our professors are and that they are easy to talk to.”

Admissions Office research indicates that students are more likely to enroll at ASU if they have toured the campus. In addition to offering tours as part of ASU’s big recruiting events, such as Discover ASU, the Admissions Office stays busy with individually scheduled tours year-round. About 25 volunteer RAMbassadors lead an average of 30-50 people on campus tours every week.

“When students tour campus today, they have already researched us on the Web and already know so much about us that they want to see what else there is,” Hart said. “That’s why I want our campus tour guides to give their stories about why ASU is special to them and why it was a good fit for them.”

Offering tours year-round, though, can pose a few challenges. It can be difficult to

give students a good feel for the campus when they tour during Spring Break or during the summer when fewer students and professors are present. A 60-75-minute walking tour can also be a chore when temperatures reach 100 degrees in the summer. The Admissions Office is quick to pass out fans and water bottles during those conditions.

“Because of where we recruit primarily,” Hart said, “most of the people who do attend or come to campus tours are familiar with West Texas and they are familiar with the weather.”

Even when the heat is intense, the university has a few must-see places on campus for visitors to check out. The newly renovated Center for Human Performance with its student fitness center is popular with all students. The Library Learning Commons is also an attention grabber with its flat screen TVs, group and individual study areas, and Common Grounds coffee bar. And, no ASU tour would be complete without a visit to the Houston Harte University Center, one of the main student social hubs on campus.



Kevin Castro leads a campus tour.

The residence halls, however, typically garner the most interest from prospective students. To save a bit of time while still giving them a good feel for campus housing, tour guides take students and their families to the showrooms in the Plaza Verde residence hall.

“Just to tour the residence halls alone would be an hour-long tour,” Hart said. “So we have a happy medium. We can just show them the three types of room formats available on campus, and then we refer them to the website for more information about the differences among the halls.”

“They’re usually very impressed,” Castro added, “with how nice the campus is and the newly renovated areas. The dorms are usually nicer than what the parents lived in or what they expected for their student.”

Castro said he enjoys giving campus tours because he gets to share his passion for ASU with prospective students and get them excited about attending Angelo State.

“I’ve talked to people who were trying to choose between two schools,” Castro said, “and they’ll tell me after a tour that it pushed them to choose ASU.” ■

## Mapping Forward

**Thanks to a revamped version** of the campus map and Angelo State’s mobile app, visitors can take a comprehensive self-guided tour of campus at their own convenience.

Hard-copy versions of the campus map are available in brochure form and are also posted on signs throughout campus, but the map is really enhanced in its electronic format, which is accessible on the ASU website and ASU Mobile, the campus’ mobile app. Jon Wilcox, Web development specialist on the university’s Information Technology staff, created the new map that includes geographic location information. He worked on the project on and off for more than a year.

“I felt like I had to give it sufficient time so that it would work for us,” Wilcox said. “Before, we had a hand-illustrated map, and it was hard to be flexible with things like building changes.”

The map is particularly useful on ASU Mobile, where users can deploy the augmented reality capability to determine where they are on campus and how to get where they want to go. A self-guided version of the campus tour that allows users to see, hear and read about buildings and points of interest on campus is also available.

“You get to become a part of the campus with the mobile app,” said Rebecca Muzquiz-Schkade, learning technology support specialist. “I am the tour guide, and I don’t have to follow a guide. I am experiencing student life, and that’s empowering.”

The ASU Mobile app is also introduced to students and their families during orientation sessions each summer. Students seem to especially like the map feature because they can find the way to their classes without having to ask for help. During the first week of classes last fall, more than 450 people used the app’s augmented reality capabilities.

“We will use student feedback to shape the next version of the app,” Muzquiz-Schkade said. “But overall, people have been really excited about the map.” ■







# Getting Adventurous

by Roy Ivey



Photos by Danny Meyer

**Through the Outdoor Adventures** program administered by ASU University Recreation (UREC), students have the opportunity to get out of the classroom and off campus to experience the great outdoors.

Established in 2010, the Outdoor Adventures program sponsors student outdoor activities trips, oversees the ASU Lake House facilities and offers skills clinics and other special events. Student participation has more than doubled from 2,700 in the program's first year to 6,333 in 2012.

For pure numbers, the 40-foot indoor rock climbing gym in the ASU Center for Human Performance is the most popular activity, but participation in the outdoor activities trips is also growing. Recent excursions included a weeklong ski trip to New Mexico and mountain biking at Middle Concho Park. Affordably priced (only \$65 for three days of mountain biking, \$500 for the ski trip), the trips are open to all students.

"The trips program is an educational opportunity," said Ian Brown, assistant director of Outdoor Adventures. "We take the classroom and move it to a higher perceived

risk setting, whether that is rappelling off a 40-foot cliff, rock climbing up one, backpacking in Big Bend or kayaking on the Rio Grande River."

Sarah Riojas, sophomore biology major from Buda, found such activities to her liking while looking for an on-campus job. She has become fully engaged in the Outdoor Adventures program, including a sunrise yoga trip to Enchanted Rock near Fredericksburg last fall and the ski trip to New Mexico.

"That trip to Enchanted Rock completely blew my mind," Riojas said. "It was so beautiful and peaceful, and a great experience that I believe everyone should have. I also participated in the ski/snowboard trip last year at Ruidoso, N.M. That trip was the most fun I've had in all my life. I've always wanted to go snowboarding, so I took my chance, and it was a blast."

Students interested in joining one of the trips, but who are not as confident in their outdoor skills, can participate in UREC clinics that include Introduction to Climbing Movement, Top Rope Belay, Backpacking, Kayaking, Camp Cooking and Mountain Biking.

In addition to just enjoying the various outdoor activities, students can get involved in planning and even leading a trip, which gives them valuable experience to put on their résumés, regardless of their future career plans.

"Students can propose their own trip ideas as long as they have logistical plans in place, do the necessary paperwork and have the skills for the trip," Brown said. "Trips could range from kayaking on the Concho River to a trail run at San Angelo State Park. It depends on the skill set a proposing student has at the time, interest in the trip, and the experience and trust we have in that student."

To encourage more student-led trips, Brown plans to install a leadership program to which interested students can apply and be accepted. They would go through rigorous training with simulations of experiences they might encounter on an outdoor trip, so they can work on their judgment and decision-making skills.

"Once we have that core group of students who have gone through the program," Brown said, "they will be more adept at facilitating team-building experiences."

For students wanting to stay closer to campus, the Lake House facilities on Lake Nasworthy offer everything from a quiet place to relax by the water to more vigorous activities, like kayaking, mountain biking,

volleyball and basketball. Of course, right on campus, there is the rock climbing gym.

"We average 46 participants for the outdoor trips," Brown said, "but it's hard to measure their experience against the 3,000 or so who now go to the climbing gym. With the climbing gym, you come in for an hour or two and you get this great, short burst of experience, whether you come in one day or a few days, as compared to an outdoor trip where you are backpacking for four or five days straight."

Climbers can also test their skills against their fellow students in Outdoor Adventures' annual Angelo Rock Climbing Competition. Each spring semester, the indoor rock climbing gym is stripped of routes, washed and set with completely fresh routes for the contest that is open to all students, regardless of skill level.

Whatever type of activities they prefer, ASU students can get involved in the Outdoor Adventures program from the first day they arrive on campus. Its First-Year Quest component debuted in 2011 and is now offered during the annual Rambunctious Weekend that marks the beginning of each ASU fall semester. The 90-minute program currently involves several on-campus team-building exercises with plans to add more in the future, possibly including rock climbing, kayaking and backpacking.

"We would provide experiences in the back country that students can also apply to campus life, such as planning meals and working as a team to cook those meals," Brown said. "After that trip, they will already know people on campus they can smile at and nod to and give a high-five. In the future, if all goes as planned, the young students will have these older student mentors they can go to if they need to reach out to somebody."

An indication that the ASU program is on the right track came in January when ASU was picked to host the 2013 Texas Outdoor Leadership Conference (TOLC) that included a variety of meetings and activities attended by 117 students and professionals from more than 17 Texas universities.

"Hosting the TOLC was not only a major milestone for Outdoor Adventures," Brown said, "but it also brought a lot of notice to ASU. It brought in prospective students for our graduate programs, and helped our current students who are potentially seeking graduate programs at other schools to network with them."

Already enjoying a promising beginning and projecting grand plans for the future, the Outdoor Adventures program has added yet another component to Angelo State that helps foster the camaraderie of its residential campus and ensure its students can have a fulfilling and complete college experience. ■



# Horsing Around

**It is safe to assume** that few, if any, Angelo State nursing students thought they would be taking a nursing clinical course in a corral.

For the fourth straight year, though, nursing students in Stephen Hammer's pediatrics clinical rotation are doing just that. For a couple of days during each spring and fall semester, Hammer, an assistant clinical professor of nursing, volunteers his students to help with day-long sessions of the Sonrisas Therapeutic Riding Program in an outdoor corral at the San Angelo Fairgrounds.

Created by the Junior League in 1983, Sonrisas offers therapeutic horseback riding to children with physical, mental and emotional challenges. Helping out gives the nursing students valuable training in dealing with young special-needs patients.

"It takes four people to walk a child on a horse," Hammer said. "You have two people as side walkers on either side of the horse to stabilize the child. You have to have a leader, and then you have to have a director who oversees everything. So, it requires a lot of manpower."

"It's a situation that you can talk about in class, show on a DVD or bring in guest speakers," he continued, "but by being there, it is an opportunity for the student nurses to get hands-on experience and see from that perspective what it takes. The hope is that as they develop as nurses, they will understand that is an element of nursing just as much as being in a pediatrician's office, being a school nurse or working in a hospital pediatric unit."

Getting the students out of the classroom and into the community is also an important aspect of their education.

"We really try to stress the community aspect of pediatric nursing," Hammer said, "whether it is conducting health fairs, going to schools or promoting health in general at that early age that goes from newborn all the way to 18 years old. At Sonrisas, students get the opportunity to see how things go on in the real world, and we always try to marry their classroom experience with the real world."

"In nursing school, many of the students get an idea of what they want to specialize in," he continued. "But, some of them have changed their minds because of these

types of activities. So, we push a lot to find an outside experience that is going to make them better nurses, more responsible, more mature, and able to solve problems and understand that they are but a small part of a much bigger picture."

On top of all that, Sonrisas provides a really positive personal experience for both the riders and the students.

"It's an opportunity," Hammer said, "for these children who have developmental issues to be outside, to be on horseback and, in some cases, to be verbal when they aren't verbal under any other circumstances. It's a chance for them to feel their bodies in a different way because they actually sit on the horse and ride. The motion of the horse is very similar to what you and I would do walking, so they become a unit and that feeling of movement is transferred to the children."

"Helping Sonrisas has really had a big impact on many of our students," he added. "We have them turn in what we call a 'reflective paper' afterwards, and many students have had very meaningful experiences as a result of those efforts." ■



Stephen Hammer

ASU nursing students Melissa Malane and Kevin Russman take 5-year-old Isaiah Galvan for a ride on "Sweet Pea."

Photo by Danny Meyer



# Star Gazing



Mark Sonntag

**Even as he thrills audiences** with state of the art astral programs in Angelo State's Global Immersion Center (GIC), Dr. Mark Sonntag remains an old-school astronomer.

In his view, nothing beats looking at the night sky with a telescope, which was the high tech instrument of early astronomers like Galileo.

Galileo and his contemporaries could never have imagined the equipment now available in the GIC. Formerly called the ASU Planetarium, the GIC in 2010 installed a new SciDome HD digital projection system powered by Starry Night software and a digital sound system with Dolby 5.1 surround sound. They allow Sonntag to present cutting edge public astronomy programs that accurately simulate stars, planets and even "trips" throughout the solar system. After each program, though, he still tries to get the attendees outside to actually look at the night sky.

"We've got a great program on Saturn," Sonntag said, but when you can have people look at Saturn through a telescope and see the rings, it is a whole different experience for them. Looking at the real universe is as big a thrill as anything you can do in a planetarium.

The regularly scheduled viewings are not anything elaborate, just whatever is visible at the time," he added.

You can see things like Saturn and the moons of Jupiter. If our moon is out, we look at the craters on the moon, that

sort of thing. And in the winter season, the Orion nebula and the constellation Orion are visible. So, there is always a variety of things to look at.

While about 30 people, including large contingents of ASU students, show up for the weekly telescope viewings, Sonntag also partners with the San Angelo Amateur Astronomy Association to organize viewings for special astral events that often draw hundreds of people to the viewing site in front of the Vincent Nursing Physical Science Building.

Every two years, Mars becomes very bright in the sky, Sonntag said. "So around that time, we like to have a special program. We've got comets that occasionally become visible, so we'll have special stargazing programs for those kinds of events. We've had solar and lunar eclipses as well, and we get very large crowds for that kind of thing."

For all the outdoor viewings, Sonntag provides a computer driven Meade telescope with built in GPS and a CCD camera. He calls it the "talking telescope."

When you turn it on, it has a computer generated voice that starts talking, Sonntag said. It tells you the steps for setting it up. With the GPS, it determines its location on the Earth and the time. It will then know where a certain star is in the sky, and it will turn and find that star. Then it will go to a second star and do the same thing. It has a tiny little keyboard that you can then type in what particular object you want to look at, and it will automatically go and find it.

It is Sonntag's modern way of getting people to go old school.

In the movies now with computer graphics, it's sometimes hard to tell if something is real or computer generated," he said. "So in this day and age, it is really important to ground people in the real thing, not a simulation. Often they think it is an image or picture in the telescope, and I think they are surprised and thrilled that it is the real thing."

In the Planetarium, we show multi media programs, he continued. "We get a lot of positive feedback, but in my experience, at least as important is to go outside with a telescope and actually see the real thing." ■





Chris Beard

Photos by Danny Meyer

# Win with Integrity

**Promising to bring passion** and enthusiasm along with a vision of winning championships, graduating players and being an active part of the community, new Rams coach Chris Beard is aiming to turn around ASU's men's basketball program.

"Our teams will always start with the character of our players," Beard said. "We want to recruit true student-athletes who are serious about getting a degree and being the best basketball player that they can become. Our teams always start with defense and rebounding. Each game we play, we

want to defend the best we can, and on offense we want to be an unselfish team that shares the ball."

"We are going to win here and we are going to do it the right way," he added. "We are going to follow the rules, and that will bring even more satisfaction when we are cutting down the nets one day, knowing that we did it the right way."

Armed with 18 years of successful coaching experience at the NCAA Division I and Division II, junior college and professional levels, Beard in March joined the

Rams after one season at McMurry University in Abilene, where he led the War Hawks to a 19-10 record and a trip to the National Christian College Athletic Association national tournament.

Prior to McMurry, Beard coached the South Carolina Warriors of the American Basketball Association to a 31-2 record, a Mid-Atlantic Division Championship and an appearance in the ABA Finals.

However, Beard is probably best known in West Texas for spending 2001-11 as an assistant under Hall of Fame coach Bob Knight and then his son, Pat Knight, at Texas Tech. During Beard's tenure, the Red Raiders won 188 games and advanced to the postseason six times, including four trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Beard holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He and his wife, Leslie, have three daughters, Avery, Ella and Margo. ■







Cayla Petree

# Passion for the Game

The **ASU Rambelles** basketball team has long prided itself on strong academics and community involvement, and new head coach Cayla Petree plans to build on that tradition while guiding the team back to the top of the Lone Star Conference.

Coaching to me is all about relationships," Petree said. "That is my approach to recruiting, coaching and dealing with the community. I saw firsthand how Coach (Marsha) Sharp built Texas Tech one relationship at a time .... I know she built that by getting out in the community .... I'm willing to do that. I'm super excited to get out in the community and get the girls out in the community.

This is a great place to do something, she added. I can't wait to get to work and build something great.

Already with NCAA Division I and junior college coaching experience under her belt, Petree in March took over the reins of the Belles program after spending the previous season as an assistant coach at the University of North Texas. While at UNT, she helped coach the Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year and signed an ESPN Top 100 recruit.

Prior to UNT, Petree spent 2007-12 rebuilding Cisco College into a perennial play-off contender. Taking over a team that went 0-60 the three previous seasons, she led the Lady Wranglers to three straight 20-win campaigns and Region V Tournament appearances from 2010-12. Her overall record at Cisco was 93-61, including a 66-28 mark her final three seasons.

As a player, Petree was a two-time all-conference selection for Cisco and was named conference Freshman of the Year in 2000 or. She transferred to Texas Tech in 2002 and was a member of the 2003 Elite Eight team under Sharp.

Petree holds a bachelor's degree in exercise and sport science/communication studies and a master's degree in sports management, both from Texas Tech. ■

Photo by Danny Meyer

# A Long Way Back

by Brandon Ireton

"Heel to toe ... heel to toe" are the only words Leah LeMaire could think about during rehab after a horrific car wreck.

LeMaire's promising career for the Rambelles basketball team, which included being named the 2009-10 Lone Star Conference South Division Freshman of the Year, was in jeopardy after the wreck in September of 2010. She suffered a lacerated spleen and diaphragm, punctured left lung, broken left pelvis, fractured left elbow, dislocated right elbow, three torn ligaments in her right knee, three fractured ribs and a mild concussion.

After about six weeks in the hospital, LeMaire was sent home to start the long, slow rehab process.

"Honestly, I forgot how to run," LeMaire said. "I remember crying every day. My mom would tell me everything is going to be OK, and I would tell her people don't come back the same."

The Corpus Christi native spent the fall of 2010 going to four hours of rehab a day. She stayed in contact with the 'Belles basketball team by watching practices and games.

"It really wasn't easy," LeMaire said. "I would watch the team on Skype and try to watch practice, and it was just so hard for me because my sister was there. It was really difficult and it definitely took time, and I wasn't going to let myself settle for less."

She rejoined the team in 2011 and started 28 games, averaging 7.1 points per game. The junior had doubts throughout the season as she continued to rehab and work on her strength.

"Strength and keeping my legs strong have been the hardest," LeMaire said. "Sometimes it is difficult getting up and down the court because I ruptured my diaphragm and lung."

This past season, LeMaire took on a more prominent role, averaging 10.6 points

and 4.8 rebounds per game. She recorded her second career double-double against Texas Woman's University, her first since her freshman season.

Also, the confidence and smile that LeMaire had throughout her freshman season started to return at the Texas Woman's tournament in November.

"We had a few scrimmages before, and the way I played defense, I could keep up with the other players," LeMaire said. "I could totally feel a difference in each game, and it just keeps getting better and better, and my confidence just built up more and more. I'd probably say I am 90 percent back to where I was."

Despite LeMaire not being fully recovered, former 'Belles head coach Sally Brooks thinks she has turned into a better player.

"She is not as quick or explosive as she used to be," Brooks said. "I think defense and rebounding is not as natural to her as it was before the accident. But, she has become a smarter player because she is unable to rely totally on her athleticism."

Brooks also raved about the progress LeMaire has made personally.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the accident forced Leah to mature quicker than she would have otherwise," Brooks said. "I couldn't be more proud of Leah, and she will always be very special to me and this program."

Now more focused on basketball than rehab, LeMaire is embracing the opportunity she thought was lost.

"Anything is possible with whatever you put your mind to," she said. "I figured after my wreck I could just be on the sidelines supporting, but I really didn't want that. I knew I had to work hard to be back where I left off, and that was being a scorer on this team. I feel I am back to where I left off." ■



Leah LeMaire joins the 'Belles during Midnight Madness.

Photo by Kimberley Meyer



# Sportsbriefs

## Top 10 Finish

The Angelo State women's track and field team rode the All-American performances of four individuals to an eighth-place finish at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships this spring in Birmingham, Ala.

Rambelles Kearah Danville, Jordan Gray, Jaylen Rodgers and Theresa Sue combined to score ASU's 28 points as each earned an All-America certificate.

Danville won the triple jump title with a personal-best leap of 43-3¼ to become ASU's second individual indoor national champion. She joins Andria Nussey, who won the 800-meters title in 2011.

Also setting personal records were Gray and Rodgers, who were each national runners-up in the pentathlon and 800-meters, respectively. Gray scored 3,790 points in the five-event pentathlon to take second place. Rodgers took three seconds off her previous personal best as she finished second in the 800-meters with a school-record time of 2:06.83.

Sue leaped 19-2¾ to finish seventh in the long jump and earn her second career All-America honor and ASU's first in the indoor long jump.

Overall, the Rambelles were the top Lone Star Conference team in the women's standings, finishing two places above Abilene Christian. Their eighth-place finish also marked the best showing by ASU at a national meet since the Rambelles won the 2010 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championship.

## End of an Era

Qualifying for the 2013 Lone Star Conference Tournament became a bittersweet memory for the ASU Rambelles basketball team as it turned out to be the final tournament appearance under head coach Sally Walling Brooks.

In a season that included a six-game winning streak, their longest since 2004-05, the 'Belles lost to West Texas A&M in the first round of the LSC Tournament to finish 14-13 overall. After the season, Brooks resigned as head coach.

During her 13 seasons at ASU, Brooks' teams went 251-128 and won four LSC South Division titles and three LSC Tournament titles. She was twice named LSC South Division Coach of the Year and won her 400<sup>th</sup> career game during the 2012-13 season. Her 22-year career record now stands at 406-234.

Lauren Holt led this year's 'Belles with an average of 12.6 points and 8.4 rebounds per game and earned All-LSC second team honors. Leah LeMaire and Haylee Oliver were both named honorable mention All-LSC, and Karli Kellermeier was selected to the Academic All-LSC Team for the first time.

## Rough Season

The Angelo State men's basketball team struggled to a 7-19 overall record and failed to qualify for the Lone Star Conference Tournament for the third straight season in head coach Fred Rike's final campaign.

There were some bright spots, however, as the Rams won six home games and finished strong, winning two of their final three games. Those included a victory that snapped a 20-year losing streak at Midwestern State, and a season-ending 88-75 win over Incarnate Word. But, they were not enough to overcome a 4-14 record in LSC games, so there was once again no postseason play for ASU.

Several Rams enjoyed impressive individual seasons. Freshman Jovan Austin was named the LSC Co-Freshman of the Year after averaging 12.3 points per game and posting 91 assists and 43 steals. Sophomore Justin Walling led the LSC in three-point shooting percentage at 51 percent. The team's lone senior, Antonio Dye, averaged 10.8 points per game and sank 44 three-pointers to tie junior Chris Talkington for the team lead.

Junior guard Bryan Hammond was named the conference's Offensive Player of the Week on Jan. 21, and junior forward Ryan Marsh was tabbed the LSC Defensive Player of the Week on Nov. 13.

In Rike's seven seasons at ASU, the Rams posted a 92-99 overall record. His best season was 2008-09 when the Rams went 20-9, qualified for the NCAA Division II South Central Regional Tournament and achieved their highest NCAA D-II national ranking in school history at No. 23. ■

# Building on Talent

by Wes Bloomquist

**Chad Herring's goal** for ASU's student-athletes is to maximize their potential and eliminate regrets.

As Angelo State's strength and conditioning coach, Herring makes it his priority to motivate each student-athlete and provide the resources necessary for them to succeed in competition.

"I'd like to help all of our athletes and teams reach their athletic potential," Herring said. "It's really important for me to make sure that no one leaves here with regrets about not putting in the work to be their best. If I can motivate someone to push themselves to get better, then I'm doing my job."

A former football player at Ithaca College in New York, Herring came to ASU two years ago as a graduate assistant while earning his master's degree in coaching, sport, recreation and fitness administration. Since being hired full time in September, he is known for arriving at 6 a.m. daily at his office in the Junell Center weight room. From there, he develops workout plans to address the needs of each individual athlete and sport.

"You have to know the personality of each athlete that comes in here," Herring said. "Individuals and teams are all different, and you have to be able to adjust to their personalities to help them along the way. Motivation is a really important aspect here, and you can't treat everyone the same. There are some athletes who are motivated by yelling while some will shut down with that. You have to know who you are dealing with."

With his football background, Herring was an easy fit with the Rams football team. Head coach Will Wagner said he is encouraged by the way the Rams have taken to Herring's program, and that the trust developed between them gives the rest of the coaches the opportunity to focus on other areas. However, on any given day, Herring faces the daunting challenge of also working with basketball, soccer, track and field, baseball, softball and volleyball players. It is his job to understand



Photo by Danny Meyer

what exercises will most benefit the athletes, and what each coach would like to get from their athletes' time in the weight room.

"One of the things I like most about Chad is that he wants to be as sport-specific in his training as possible," said Chuck Waddington, head volleyball coach. "He doesn't train our volleyball players like football players. He also communicates with them in a way that they appreciate."

Herring is also willing to keep learning. Last summer, he interned in New York with the Tri-City ValleyCats, a minor league affiliate of the Houston Astros, and uses what he learned to help the ASU baseball and softball teams.

"Chad is doing a great job working with the team," said Katie Naumoff, assistant

softball coach. "The team feeds off of his positive and energetic demeanor. He has a lot of experience with baseball and softball, and designs sport-specific workouts to strengthen the throwing shoulder and rotational hip movement used daily in softball."

Despite his football days as an Academic All-American safety, Herring's main concern is not having athletes set new max records in the weight room. He prefers to emphasize improving their overall athleticism.

"I like non-traditional exercises that put the athletes on their feet and moving like they do in games," Herring said. "If we can work balance, flexibility and strength at the same time, then we are helping them more than just isolating one part of conditioning. I want quality in everything they do." ■

## 2013 Rams Football Schedule

<b>Sept. 5</b>	<b>Black Hills State (Thursday)</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Sept. 14	CSU Pueblo (@ LSC FB Festival)	8 p.m.
<b>Sept. 21</b>	<b>Tarleton State* (Family Weekend)</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
Sept. 28	@ Valdosta State	TBA
Oct. 5	@ McMurry	TBA
<b>Oct. 12</b>	<b>Eastern New Mexico* (Homecoming)</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
Oct. 19	@ West Texas A&M*	TBA
<b>Oct. 26</b>	<b>Midwestern State*</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
Nov. 2	@ Texas A&M-Commerce*	TBA
<b>Nov. 9</b>	<b>Texas A&amp;M-Kingsville* (Military Appreciation)</b>	<b>4 p.m.</b>
Nov. 16	@ Incarnate Word	TBA
Home games in bold		*Lone Star Conference Game



# Legendary Feat

## Winning a national championship

is quite an accomplishment, but winning two in the same week is the stuff of IM Legends.

An ASU co-recreational (co-ed) flag football team, IM Legends brought home two national championship trophies from Florida in January after winning the American Collegiate Intramural Sports (ACIS) tournament in Pensacola and the National Collegiate Competition Series (NCCS) tournament in Orlando.

"It's kind of cool," said Scott Fankhauser, a nursing major and IM Legends All-American. "Everybody knows Angelo State since we've been successful the past few years. It's kind of weird to think that you know Nebraska, Central Florida and these other big schools, and they look at Angelo State and all know who we are."

IM Legends defeated a University of Central Florida team, 20-10, in the ACIS cham-

pionship game to claim the ASU squad's second ACIS title, having also won in 2011. They then turned around and beat Central Florida again, 18-9, in the NCCS final.

When the brackets are drawn for both the regional and national tournaments, teams are not separated by division based on the size of university or college they represent. So, smaller schools like ASU often end up matched against larger schools like the University of Nebraska or Central Florida.

"When you go to regional or the national tournament, everybody is on the same level," said graduate student Jodi Jackson, who plays defense for IM Legends. "At regional, you will have some good teams, and you will have some really bad teams, but at national, everybody is good."

The recent successes of IM Legends, as well as ASU men's team Wolfpac and wom-

en's team Vixen, have made them names other teams do not want to see in their bracket.

"When they do the bracket draws," Jackson said, "you hear people talking and saying, 'We don't want to go on Angelo State's side of the bracket,' so they always pick the other side so they don't have to play us until the championship, if we make it that far. It's pretty cool being the top dog, and it boosts our confidence that people are scared to play us."

"I can't explain the excitement for us this year," she added, "especially after regional when we won the men's division, the women's and the co-ed. Getting to the championship bracket in all three divisions in both national tournaments was incredible."

Wolfpac reached the semi-finals of the ACIS tournament and was the NCCS national runner-up. Vixen was national runner-up at both tournaments.

ASU's intramural program is a component of University Recreation (UREC). Jeromey Whitaker, assistant UREC director, considers competing in regional and national tournaments as the students' reward for their practice time and the team commitment. That sentiment is appreciated by senior communication major Brianne Wilburn, another IM Legends defensive player.

"Without intramurals and IM Legends," she said, "I wouldn't have had the opportunity to travel like I have. We got to go to Nebraska, New Orleans, Pensacola and Orlando. It was so much fun to travel and see things you don't normally get to see. That was the best thing, the whole new experiences."

Plus, ASU teams winning championships can only enhance the intramural program back home.

"It will create a more competitive environment on campus," Whitaker said, "because the other students will want to knock off the national champions." ■



Ryan Easterly and Josh Seale fishing on Lake Nasworthy

**Despite being based** in an area of West Texas plagued by low lake levels and a decreasing fish population, Angelo State's Bass Anglers club has made ASU synonymous with great bass fishing.

Often competing against as many as 50 other teams, most from much larger universities, members of the ASU Bass Anglers regularly place in the top five at tournaments on the premier FLW College Fishing circuit. Led by Josh Seale, a graduate student from Breckenridge, the ASU club has won nearly \$40,000 in prize money over the last five years.

"The thing I like best about tournaments is the competition," Seale said. "I love to fish, but I'm kind of a competitive junkie, too."

Last October, Seale and his partner, junior Ethan George of San Angelo, took third place at the FLW College Fishing Southern Conference Championship, winning \$3,000 for the club and qualifying for the FLW National Championship in April. They also made it onto national television as the conference tournament was broadcast in December on the NBC Sports Network.

More recently, George teamed with club president Ryan Easterly to take fourth

place at the FLW Southern Conference qualifying tournament in January at Lake Amistad near Del Rio. That earned the club \$500 and the ASU duo a spot in the FLW Southern Conference Invitational in Beaumont in October.

"We are the only ASU club that wins money," Easterly said. "Everyone else just wins trophies and prizes."

Half of the money won by the Bass Anglers goes into ASU's General Scholarship Fund while the other half helps fund the club's travel expenses to tournaments that are often many hours of drive time away in Texas and other states. Winning prize money takes a lot of work and dedication from the student anglers.

"Sometimes, we'll go all the way to Louisiana to pre-fish a lake," said club member Austin Osmanski. "We've also talked on the Internet about who is using what lures and who is teaming with whom. We talk about our game plan and circle spots on the map where we want to fish. Then we get out there and don't have time to eat because the more casts you get, the higher the chance you have of catching fish."

Tournament expenses are also partially subsidized by ASU's Center for Student Involvement (CSI). Now about 20 strong, Bass Anglers members have more than repaid the faith shown in them when they were approved to join the CSI Club Sports lineup.

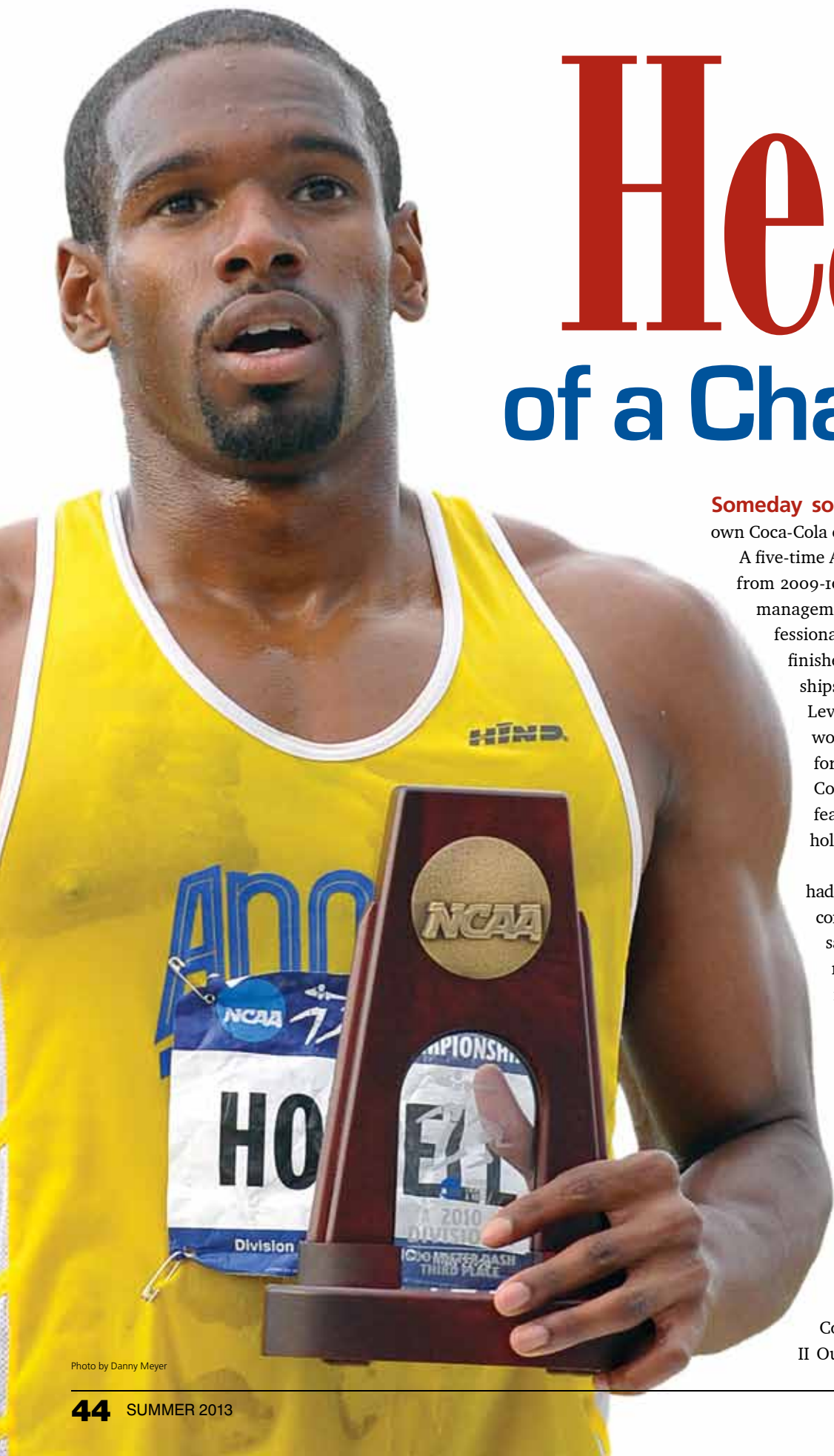
"When we first started, bass fishing was just taking off nationally," said Paul Osmanski, assistant clinical professor of nursing. "They asked me if I would be the ASU club's faculty advisor, and I said sure. We started off with a bunch of really involved students, and the club started growing."

"Some of these guys fish three or four times a week," Austin Osmanski said. "That's why Josh Seale is so good, because he is putting in the time. A lot of people attribute catching fish to luck, but if you go fishing that often, you are going to know how to catch fish."

Knowing how to fish is certainly paying off for the Bass Anglers as its members contribute money toward ASU scholarships, make national TV appearances and make Angelo State a name to be reckoned with in the competitive world of tournament bass fishing. ■







# Heart of a Champion

by Tom Nurre

**Someday soon,** James Howell wants to have his own Coca-Cola commercial.

A five-time All-American track star at Angelo State from 2009-10, Howell graduated with his business management degree and then joined the professional track and field circuit. In 2011, he finished third at the U.S. Indoor Championships in the 400-meters running for Next Level Athletix, and was ranked 21<sup>st</sup> in the world in that event. After moving to California in 2012, he was an extra in a Coca-Cola 2012 Olympic Games TV commercial featuring David Oliver, the U.S. record holder in the 110-meter hurdles.

“When I relocated to California, I also had the mindset that I wanted to get into the commercial and movie industry,” Howell said. “My craft still comes first, and the more I perfect my craft on the track, the more access I’ll have to getting into commercials. My coach had a connection to the director, and I was able to get into the casting call and was picked from many other people. Even though I was just an extra, it was awesome!”

But, remaining in the background is not in Howell’s plans, though it sometimes seems that he has spent his entire life there.

While at ASU, Howell toiled in the shadow of the Rambelles track and field team that dominated the Lone Star Conference and won the NCAA Division II Outdoor National Championship in 2010.

Despite winning four LSC champion medals and five All-America certificates, and setting a school record that still stands in the 400-meter dash, he just never could quite bump the women’s team off the front pages.

“But I was never bitter,” Howell said. “I embraced it. It really inspired me to place even higher at the national meet. I knew the Rambelles had a great team and were the faces of the 2010 track and field season for ASU, so it fueled me even more to break the school record and place higher in the 400-meters than anyone at ASU ever had before at the national meet. When I saw them doing so well, it made me want to do the same thing.”

“One of the things that made James so good,” said James Reid, ASU head track and field coach, “was that he was a student of the sport. He always wanted to analyze his race with me so that he understood completely what the strategy was for each race. He was always curious about what workouts I had prepared for them and what the plan was going to be for the coming weeks. He was always quick to clarify which part of the race we wanted to address with each practice that we had. It was this unending pursuit of excellence that made him, and is still making him, excel in spite of what some people would call not your prototypical 400-meter runner’s stature.”

Standing just 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighing only 130 pounds, Howell’s specialties are the 400-meters and the 400-meter hurdles. In the 2012 Olympics, the average height and weight of the top eight finishers in the 400-meters were 5 feet 11 inches and 157 pounds. For the top eight finishers in the 400-meter hurdles, they were 6 feet 1 inch and 175 pounds. Howell’s training partner, 2012 400-meter hurdles gold medalist Felix Sanchez, was the smallest man in the final, but he is still four inches taller and about 20 pounds heavier than Howell.

“Having that ‘short man’s syndrome’ has always made me want to work 10 times harder,” Howell said. “Now after I work out with my coach, I take maybe a two-or-three-

hour break and then do extra work. I study the track and field greats because in order to be great, you have to study the history of the greats. That is what gives me the fuel to show other people of my stature that it doesn’t matter what you look like on the outside because you can’t measure heart. If you’ve got heart, you can accomplish whatever you want to do in life.”

“I thought it was always neat,” Reid said, “when we would show up at a meet and people would look at his height and say, ‘There’s no way this guy can be that fast!’ Then the race would start and they would find out how great a competitor he is and just exactly how fast he is!”

After moving to California, Howell endured a tough season that included some relocation and training issues and a minor hamstring injury. But now fully acclimated and healthy, Howell has set some serious goals for the 2013 season, the biggest of which are qualifying for the U.S. Outdoor Championships in June and the World Championships to be held in Moscow in August. Those are not such far-fetched notions when you consider that his personal best in the 400-meters would have been less than 1 second away from qualifying him for the 2012 Olympics final in that event.

“My confidence is also back,” Howell said. “In 2012, I lost a bit of my confidence, but I was also able to reflect on my life and put things back in order. When things are out of balance, you can’t perform the way you want to, but now I’m more at peace. I train every day with a gold medalist, so I always have to show up for practice physically fit, mentally sharp and ready to go.”

“I’m now focusing more in mechanics,” he added. “We are taking the long approach, running longer distances so I’m better able to finish my races. I’ve always had the foot speed, and now I’m better able to finish races the way I want to, so I’m excited about actually being able to accomplish the goals I’ve set out for myself this year.”

However, like all professional U.S. track and field athletes, Howell relies on private

donors to help fund his full-time training and travel expenses. His 2013 schedule includes about 17 competitions during the indoor and outdoor seasons. Several are fairly close to his training base at the University of California-Los Angeles, but a few are much farther away, including the International Track Games in Toronto, Canada, and the World Championships in Moscow. That translates to almost \$16,000 in expenses.

“I already have some sponsors, but I still need a few to really put me over the top,” Howell said. “Mainly it would be for things like hotels. Even for meets in California, we want to maintain a professional approach. If you stay at home until time for a meet, you tend to get a bit lackadaisical. But, separating yourself from your ‘home world’ allows you to stay focused on the task ahead of you.”

“That is something I learned in 2012 and have brought to 2013,” he continued. “You have to maintain that professional approach to your craft at all times.”

When he is not on the track, Howell stays busy with his fitness consulting business, CF Fitness, and has always been big on performing community service wherever he lives. While at ASU, he lived at Angelo Place Apartments and participated in several activities sponsored by the complex, including Halloween trick-or-treating events for area children. He was also heavily involved with the San Angelo YMCA and youth football. His California activities have included feeding holiday meals to the homeless with the Brighter Days nonprofit group at Thanksgiving in Long Beach and at the Los Angeles Mission at Christmas.

Now, Howell is hoping to receive some of that same kind of help he has been freely giving for much of his adult life. Anyone interested in assisting with his training and travel can check out his website at [www.jameshowellusa.com](http://www.jameshowellusa.com). Imagine the pride of both Howell and his sponsors when they get to see his Coca-Cola commercial.

“That’s why 2013 is a huge year for me,” Howell said, “and I’ve hit the ground running.” ■





Raymond Carver having a grand time, yesterday (below) and today

Photo above courtesy of Mike Williamson



# having a by Roy Ivey GRAND TIME

**Despite being long retired** from his post as ASU theatre director, Dr. Raymond Carver still has a passion for the stage.

That enthusiasm for the dramatic was on full display in December and January when Carver performed his one-man show, “We Had a Grand Time, Didn’t We, Kid?” at the Silver Spur Theatre in Salado, near Killeen, and at the Salvage Vanguard Theatre in Austin.

“My wife, Barbara, and I relocated to Austin to be nearer my daughter, Libba, and her family,” Carver said. “I had performed “Grand Time” as a show to raise money for

the San Angelo Symphony back in 1995, and I was asked to revive it in Salado and Austin, and I found it’s always ready to revive.”

“Grand Time” featured a look back at the octogenarian’s decades of directing drama productions at ASU and elsewhere, and his mentoring the myriad students and actors who graced his stages until his retirement in 1994. It included such musical numbers as “We’re None of Us What We Seem to Be” from “Dr. Sanarelle,” from Carver’s adaptation of Moliere’s “A Doctor in Spite of Himself,” and “I Am a Little World Made Cunningly...” from “A Man Who Believed in

Miracles,” Carver’s collaboration with Doug Cornell, his friend and colleague.

Cornell also collaborated with Carver to produce ASU’s alma mater, “In Time to Come,” in 1969.

“We got together on the eve of ASU going from a college to a university,” Carver said, “and we wrote the song.”

Carver also included music in his one-man show from “The Land and the River,” a musical historical drama he and Cornell wrote and produced during the first two years of the now-defunct Fiesta del Concho celebration in downtown San Angelo.

“We had a cast of 75 kids from ASU singing and dancing on stages built over the Concho River,” he said. “That was one of the most wonderful events of my life in the theatre, that and taking shows to Hollywood and off-Broadway.”

During his distinguished career, Carver produced plays in New York’s Samuel Beckett Theatre off-Broadway and Charlie Chaplain’s CAST Theatre in West Hollywood. In 1977, he took “Sideshow,” a musical comedy written by future *San Angelo Standard-Times* columnist Rick Smith, to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Carver and his actors received American College Theatre Festival Medallions, and Smith won the National Student Playwriting Award.

But, perhaps Carver’s most enduring contribution to the arts was his design of the Modular Theatre in ASU’s Carr Education-Fine Arts Building. It was a concept he had pondered for quite some time when ASU President Lloyd D. Vincent broached the subject of building such a facility.

“In one of our planning sessions,” Carver said, “it appeared that the theatre would be entirely too costly to be built. Everyone stopped talking, and the tension in the room was palpable. There was a long, long, very long pause, and then Dr. Vincent said he would get the money somehow because the theatre would be unique among college theatres. He said it will be ‘a jewel in the crown of ASU.’ And he did and it is, and it’s a theatre ASU can always be proud of.”

Not only did the Modular Theatre serve as a showcase for Carver’s long career, it remains his most lasting legacy to ASU and a place where students and audiences can continue to experience “Grand Times.” ■

**Spiders** – continued from page 21

along with Robert Stubblefield, the Junction campus director, and Karen Lopez, who is an assistant advisor down there.”

As a result, the course in creepy crawlies will continue in Junction for the foreseeable future, which is good news for students like Maddox.

“If I could find a reason to, I would definitely take it again,” Maddox said. “It was a great time. We were always out in the field. Plus, once you get done with your labs, you can pretty much go do what you want. There are so many things to do, like fishing or tubing down the river. You still get to relax a bit. It is not straight-up work the whole time. It is just a well-rounded course.”

“Also, if you want to get over your fear of arachnids and other creepy-crawly things, it is a great class,” he continued. “I didn’t really care for spiders, but after taking the class, I have a new-found respect for them. I even keep the tarantulas I collected in Dr. Strenth’s lab, and I hold them all the time. I never would’ve touched one before taking that class.”

Along with the tarantulas, Maddox also has a black widow spider named “Clarice” after the FBI agent played by Jody Foster in the movie “Silence of the Lambs.” He keeps his pet arachnids in the lab because they are not allowed in his ASU residence hall.

Being able to maintain the course is also good news for the ASU Biology Department, which seems to have a fascination with researching organisms most people just think are icky. They include skunks, cottonmouth snakes, bats and now arachnids – with even more examples to come.

“The next icky one you will probably be writing about from our department is Dr. Nick Negovetich, because he works with parasites,” Strenth said. “He’s got fish in here that just have parasites coming out of them like crazy. But, I don’t think any of us think of our research subjects as being icky, even though the general public might. We think of them as neat.”

“Now, I don’t necessarily agree when it comes to the cottonmouths,” he continued. “But, I don’t think you can look at arachnids and not be interested in them.” ■

**Livestock** – continued from page 25

“All of our faculty involved in research attend scientific meetings,” Salisbury said. “Research dealing with livestock gets presented to the American Society of Animal Science, and is then published in worldwide journals. We try to get all of our department’s research published in some kind of journal. Also, every two years we publish all our research in a progress report and give copies of it to our area producers.”

“We present our research at local and area field days conducted by various agencies,” he continued. “We also conduct conferences and workshops to present our new findings to local producers. We get the information out there throughout the U.S., and we will even get the occasional request from a foreign country.”

Waddell has not made a firm choice for her master’s research topic yet, but regardless of what she chooses, she will have the ASU Ranch as her open-air laboratory.

“I’ve got several different options I can choose from,” Waddell said, “but they all deal with animal feeding methods or supplements. It’s really convenient to have the ranch so close with our own livestock to work on. It’s cool that every year new students can just jump in and help keep the livestock operation going, and be able to experiment with different care and improvement methods.”

“It’s all a lot of fun for me,” she added. “I just love going out to the ranch.” ■



# CLASSnotes

Each issue of the Angelo State University Magazine highlights selected alumni and invites you to visit the Angelo State University Alumni Association website for the latest on your former classmates. To learn more about Angelo State alumni, visit [www.angelostatealumni.com](http://www.angelostatealumni.com). Better yet, see what your friends are up to and then update the site with news about you, your family and your accomplishments.

## 1975

**Hector Mendez**, who holds an ASU elementary education degree and has been superintendent of the Ector County Independent School District since 2008, has received the Heritage of Odessa's 2013 Community Statesman Award for education.

Mendez has been with the Ector County ISD since 1980. Previously in Odessa, he taught at Sam Houston Elementary, served three years as executive director of elementary education and then worked as assistant superintendent with responsibilities for elementary education, curriculum, enrollment, desegregation and magnet programs.

The new gym at Tuloso Midway High School in Corpus Christi has been named for longtime basketball coach and ASU alumnus **Bobby Craig** during ceremonies in the fall. Craig, who has been with the Tuloso Midway program for 32 years, coached the Warriors to their first outright district title in 20 years in 2011.

Craig lettered in basketball at ASU from 1973-75 and served as an ASU assistant basketball coach from 1975-77.

## 1979

**Dr. Neil Dugger** has been named the new dean of the College of Education at Dallas Baptist University. He assumed his new duties in addition to his responsibilities as director of the university's Ed.D. program in educational leadership K-12, a position he has held since 2011.

Dugger previously worked for the Irving ISD, including as principal of Lamar Middle School, which was recognized as a U.S. Blue Ribbon School for the 1999-2000 school year under his leadership.

He earned his bachelor's degree from ASU and then master's and doctoral degrees in education from the University of North Texas.

## 1984

**Tony Truelove**, principal of Bangs Middle School in the Bangs Independent School District, has been named the Region

15 Middle School Principal of the Year by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals.

Truelove has served as Bangs Middle School principal for the past four years. Prior to that, he coached and taught for 25 years and served as an athletic director for a decade. He earned his B.S. from ASU and his M.Ed. from Lubbock Christian University.

## 1985

**Jerry Bruce Dobbins**, who received his commission upon graduating from ASU and its ROTC program in 1985, has retired from the Air Force. He earned both his navigator wings and pilot wings and achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel before retiring in December with a ceremony at Sheppard AFB. Since retiring from the Air Force, he has joined United Airlines as a pilot.

## 1988

**Scot Wilkinson** has joined the City of Round Rock as arts and culture director, having recently served with the Richardson Symphony Orchestra, where he tripled the size of individual and corporate giving during his seven-year tenure.

As arts/culture director, Wilkinson will work with the community and private foundations to expand art programs, opportunities and venues for the city. He holds a Master of Arts from ASU.

## 1990

**Dr. Genese Bell**, superintendent for Splendora ISD, has received the 2013 Dr. Nolan Estes Leadership Ascension Award from the University of Texas at Austin for excellence in educational leadership. The award is presented by UT as part of the Cooperative Superintendent Program administered through the university's Department of Educational Administration.

Bell received both her B.S. and M.Ed. from ASU and has taught at both the Grape Creek and San Angelo ISDs. She earned her doctorate in education at UT in 2008.

## 1992

**Stephen Foote** has been promoted to systems integration director for the Huntington Hotel Group at the company's Las Colinas offices. Foote joined Huntington in 2005 as a staff accountant after working as an accountant for other companies in hospitality and financial services. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from ASU.

## 1997

**Kevin Valadez**, holder of a B.B.A. in international business, is co-president of Consuro Managed Technology, which has been named one of 2013's 100 Best Companies to Work for in Texas and has been ranked No. 9 among the best small companies to work for statewide.

Consuro, a Texas-based business with offices in Fort Worth, Dallas, San Antonio, Houston and San Angelo, received the award during an Austin gala hosted by Best Companies Group, Texas State Council of the Society for Human Resource Management, Texas Association of Business and *Texas Monthly*, which listed the award results in its May issue.

## 2000

**Crystal Topper Parker**, a partner with the legal firm of Jackson Walker LLP in Houston, has been named to the "Super Lawyers – Rising Stars" list published in the April 2013 issue of *Texas Monthly*. Each year, no more than 2.5 percent of the state's lawyers are selected to the list after a multiphase selection process that includes a statewide survey of lawyers, an independent research evaluation of candidates and peer reviews by practice area.

Parker earned her B.A. in English from ASU before earning her law degree through the Houston Law Center.

## 2012

The City of Belton's Parks and Recreation Department has named **Matthew Bates** as recreation coordinator to expand the city's recreational opportunities. Originally from Newcastle, England, Bates graduated from ASU with a degree in sports fitness and leisure.

Photo by Danny Meyer



as of March 11, 2013

# alumni association century club

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Mark and Debbie Low, Dallas  
Louie and Amy Perez, San Angelo  
J. Milton and Terri Swift, Montgomery  
Harold and Carol Turnbo Jr., League City

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Jeff and Deborah Brennan, Mill Creek, Wash.  
Randy and Debbie Dews, Dallas  
Mickey and Patricia Finley, San Angelo  
Dan and Terri Herrington, Boerne  
Randy and Emma Russell, Round Hill, Va.  
Frank and Brenda Sturzl, Lakeway

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Gary Baty, Horseshoe Bay  
Kyle and Pam Box, San Angelo  
Dale and Sherry Dodson, Plano  
C.B. Franke, San Angelo  
Lt. Gen. Ronnie D. and Maria Hawkins, Washington, D.C.  
Steve and Lisa Holifield Jr., Midland  
Dr. Robert and Jean Ann LeGrand, San Angelo  
Allen and Mesha Millsap Jr., San Antonio  
Carrol Nokes, Arlington  
John Norman, Houston  
Lloyd and Sheri Norris, San Angelo  
Eric and Kimberly Peterson, San Angelo  
Jim and Marion Ratcliff, Georgetown  
Steve Timms, Humble  
James Waterbury, Madison, Ala.  
Mike and Ruth Wheeler, San Angelo

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Gary and Leslee Bowen, San Angelo  
Lane and Elaine Bowen, Mathis  
Dean Buchanan, Cedar Park  
Troy and Lisa Deubler, Irving  
Norman and Linda Dierschke, San Angelo  
Joel Dunnington, Missouri City  
Van and Angela Echols, Lubbock  
Brad and Mercyla Fly, San Angelo  
P. Gilbert and Sylvia Gallegos, San Angelo  
Maria Garcia, San Antonio  
Yantis and Sheryl Green, San Angelo  
Shawn Hancock, Irving  
David and Jo Nell Harlow, San Angelo  
Grady Harlow, San Angelo  
David Heath, San Angelo  
Joey and Leziye Henderson Jr., Christoval  
Joseph and Su Ann Henderson, Christoval  
David and Carol Herreman, Lewisville  
Ferd and Cindy Hoefs, San Angelo  
Mindy Hohensee, San Angelo  
Virginia Hunt-Edmiston, Murphy  
Col. (Ret.) Joe Hurst, Boerne  
Mitch Landry, Pflugerville  
Lanny and Joni Layman, San Angelo  
Dr. Justin Louder, Lubbock  
Dr. W. Bonham and Marcille Magness, Houston  
Jeffrey and Amy McCormick, San Angelo  
Joseph and Audrey Medley, San Angelo  
Amy Morgan, San Angelo  
Mike and Brenda Morris, San Angelo  
Charles and Shirley Morton, San Angelo  
Mark and Lisa Murphy, San Angelo  
Linda Norris, San Angelo  
LeRoy Olsak, San Angelo

Egedi Parmer, San Angelo  
Billie Phinney, Mereta  
Laurin Prather, Lubbock  
Dick and Mary Robertson, San Angelo  
Doyle and J. Lynn Schniers, San Angelo  
Brian and Jean Shannon, Lubbock  
Jacqueline Shannon, San Angelo  
Gwendolyn Smith, San Angelo  
Dave Stinnett, San Angelo  
Kenny and Beth Sumrall, Katy  
Bill Tarn, San Angelo  
James Truelove, Richardson  
Gene and Dietra Tuttle, San Angelo  
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Richard and Sue Way, San Angelo  
Will and Brendy Welch, Wall  
Ronnie and Pauline Willmann, San Angelo  
Jerry and Mary Wilson, San Angelo  
Dr. Kelly and Lesa Wilson, San Angelo  
Rodney and Betty Winn, San Angelo  
Lloyd Woodfin Sr., San Angelo

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David Arocha III, San Angelo  
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Jamie Bonner, San Angelo  
Deborah F. Brenek, San Angelo  
Heidi Brooks, San Angelo  
Cornelius and Michelle Chinn, San Angelo  
John Choate, San Angelo  
Teresa Christensen, San Angelo  
Roger Collins, San Angelo  
Cayce Cowan, San Angelo  
Hon. Jay Daniel, San Angelo  
Patrick Dunagan, San Angelo  
Theresa Eoff, San Angelo  
Angie Everett, San Angelo  
Jody and Corina Fauley, San Angelo  
Angel and Becca Flores, Christoval  
Clarissa Garcia, San Angelo  
Megan Grewing, San Angelo  
Sebastian and Carmen Guerrero, San Angelo  
Aaron Hargett, San Angelo  
Owen Harrison, San Angelo

Johnnie Hasty, San Angelo  
David Jacobo, San Angelo  
Scott and Sueann Martin, San Angelo  
Fernando Martinez, San Angelo  
Gustavo Martinez Jr., San Angelo  
Miles McGehee, Williamswood, Nova Scotia  
Phil and Susan Neighbors, San Angelo  
Antheny and Michelle Pape, San Angelo  
Linda Patrick, Plano  
Dr. Jerry Roach, San Angelo  
Robert Salas, San Angelo  
Eric Smith, San Angelo  
Dr. W. Truett Smith, San Angelo  
Corey and Sherry Turner, San Angelo  
Elizabeth Vaughan, San Angelo  
Debra Warrington, San Angelo  
Edward and Theresa Welch, San Angelo  
Tavori White, San Angelo  
Erick and Ester Ybarra, San Angelo

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Mark and Selina Jackson, San Angelo  
Jerry and Cindy Jones, San Angelo  
Jim and Kim Jones, San Angelo  
Zachary Jones, San Angelo

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Bill Belew, Winters  
Ronald and Mavis Bell, San Angelo  
Eugene Berger, San Angelo  
Dr. Jaynell Bodine, Sterling City  
Merl and Becky Brandon, Miles  
Brandon Brede Meyer, Odessa  
Cynthia Byrd, San Angelo  
Curry and Bonnie Lou Campbell, Sonora  
Jerry and Nidia Casillas, Katy  
Steve and Kay Castle, Midland  
Dr. Timothy Chandler, Abilene  
Reynaldo Chavez, Schertz  
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Kim Cox, San Angelo  
Jerry Curry, San Angelo  
Dr. Danny and Sandy Daniel, Frisco  
Darryl and Robyn DeSeve, Manassas, Va.  
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Brian Dierschke, San Angelo

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Charlie Hall, Georgetown  
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Edgar Harris, San Angelo  
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Justin MacDonald, Kerrville  
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Harold May, Spur  
Zachary and Makensie McCormick, San Angelo  
Mack McCoulskey, San Angelo  
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Dean and Suzette McIntyre, San Angelo  
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Buzz Refugio, San Angelo  
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Norm Schaule, Canyon Lake  
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Kenny Scudder, Odessa  
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Shiloh Shannon, Richardson  
Steven Shelton Sr., League City  
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Spencer and Julie Sincclair, Salado  
Blaine and Terri Smith, San Angelo  
Eddie and Melissa Smith, Plano  
Wesley and Carey Smithson, Midland  
Gregory and Carly Stephens, San Angelo  
Perwira Suprobo, Waco  
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Richard and Mary Vaughan, Lubbock  
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Kerr Wardlaw, Del Rio  
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Dr. Whitney Whitworth, Monticello, Ark.  
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Anna L. Williams, Midland  
Noel and Jacqueline Williams, Franklin, Ky.  
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Aubrey Woehl, San Angelo  
Nelson and Elizabeth Word, San Angelo  
Eric Zeitler, Bulverde

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Legend Jewelers, San Angelo  
Legacy West Investment Services, San Angelo

## BLUE BUSINESS CLUB

Reflections Hair Salon and Day Spa, San Angelo

## GOLD BUSINESS CLUB

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Wells Fargo Bank, San Angelo



1st Community Federal Credit Union, San Angelo  
3D's Plumbing, San Angelo  
AEP, San Angelo  
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George and Sande Harrison, San Angelo

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David Hirschfeld, San Angelo  
Dr. E. James and Bobbie Holland, San Angelo  
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John Huffaker, Lubbock  
Jim H. Hughes, Hughes Company, San Angelo  
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Ramsey Koschak, DDS, San Angelo  
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San Angelo Standard-Times, San Angelo  
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Time Clock Plus, San Angelo  
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West Central Wireless, San Angelo  
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